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We express our grateful thanks!

"Tamilarasu" the publication of the Information and Public Relations Department has completed 50 years and is stepping into 51st year. On this momentous occasion we take pride in expressing our heartfelt thanks to our Subscribers and Readers. We place our grateful thanks to Poets, Scholars, Savants, Writers and Government Officials who continue to make contributions to Tamilarasu. We also record our sincere thanks to former Officers, Technicians, Workers and Employees of Tamilarasu Press and Office.

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Even at a time of great crisis, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many steps to ensure that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and large industries are not affected in any manner.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects Athikadavu-Avinashi project works, envisages completion on schedule

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after reviewing works at the site of the ongoing Athikadavu-Avinashi lift irrigation scheme at Thiruvachi, Perundurai Taluk, Erode District on 25.06.2020. *(English Translation)*

At the outset, my grateful respects to all of you.

The Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme works are being carried out to benefit the three Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode. Farmers of these three Districts have been demanding this scheme for the last 50 years and Hon'ble Amma announced the implementation of Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme by way of fulfilling the 50-year-old demand.

After the demise of Hon'ble Amma, Amma's Government made an announcement that this scheme would be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,652 crore from the State Government's own funds, by way of carrying out Hon'ble Amma's promise, floated tenders and work is being executed speedily round-the-clock. This scheme will benefit about 24,500 acres. It will greatly help in filling up 42 Panchayat Union lakes, 32 PWD lakes and 970 tanks, re-charge the ground water table and make available required water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

December 2021 has been fixed as the deadline for the completion of this scheme and work is being carried out on a fast track. Construction work on six pumping stations is on full swing. This will show that Hon'ble Amma's Government quickly implements whatever schemes it announces to benefit the people.

Our Government is executing many schemes for the sake of farmers. To conserve the entire monsoon rain water, we propose to construct check dams all over Tamil Nadu as a three-year programme and have allotted Rs.1,000 crore for it. Across Bhavani river alone, 5 check dams are proposed to be constructed. Government has sanctioned a check dam at the Village Jambai and works are about to commence. Surplus monsoon rain water gets wasted. Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking

steps to conserve such water at many places for raising the ground water table.

'Kudimaramathu' is a dream scheme of farmers. About Rs.1,400 crore has been allotted for this scheme so far. The scheme is implemented in more than 6,000 PWD lakes with the full participation of farmers. No tender is floated for the execution of this scheme. We start the works on the scheme with farmers' associations, representatives of farmers and the ayacutdars of the irrigation lake. The dredged alluvial soil is used by farmers as natural fertilizer for their fields. Lakes also get deepened and the stored rain water is available for irrigation and for drinking purposes.

These works that have been taken up will be completed and the ground water will be recharged for the benefit of farmers. I am happy to state that this project will solve the drinking water problem. With great joy, I wish to share with you that Hon'ble Amma's Government has brought all these things for farmers' welfare through this scheme.

Apart from this, Hon'ble Amma's Government has designed a very big Livestock Park Scheme at Thalaivasal Koottu road for the development of Animal Husbandry, the subsidiary occupation of farmers. The scheme is to be implemented at an estimate of Rs.1,000 crore. We propose to set up a Veterinary Research Institute, the biggest in the whole of Asia and a livestock park. If a cow, reared by our farmers, yields about 10 litres of milk, we propose to produce cross-bred cows suitable for our climate and capable of yielding about 25 litres of milk in our cattle park and hand them over to farmers. These works have already been started.

In a similar manner, we have given about Rs.11,000 crore as interest-free crop loan to farmers. To market vegetables and fruits produced by farmers, the Central and State Governments propose to set up markets jointly in 10 Districts at a cost of Rs.20 crore each. These works will start shortly.

Through primary agriculture co-operative banks, we are giving tractors to farmers at a subsidized price. We have made arrangements for the hiring of agriculture machinery for tilling the fields at low rental rates. Responding to a request from coconut farmers for the eradication of Whitefly that affects coconut trees, Hon'ble Amma's Government has allotted funds and taken up steps for it.

We have given a compensation of Rs.186 crore to farmers whose maize crop was severely affected by the fall armyworm last year. This year also, farmers brought to the attention of Government, the damage caused by the fall armyworm to the maize crop. Immediately, we dispatched the Secretary of the Department concerned to inspect the extent of damage and the Government itself sprayed insecticides at a cost of Rs.49 crore and controlled the disease. This helped farmers to attain 95 per cent yield.

Likewise, we give compensation for damages sustained by plantain trees on account of gales, if they are brought to Government's attention. Paddy procurement in delta areas has not exceeded 23 lakh metric tonnes per year, but this year the procurement has been 24 lakh tonnes till now; three more lakh tonnes are expected to come. With about 27 lakh metric tonnes of paddy procurement, Hon'ble Amma's Government will be establishing a historic record. Farmers have obtained a good yield due to the distribution of required inputs, enabling them to take up to timely cultivation.

Tail-end areas in delta areas have received water supply at the scheduled time due to proper dredging. Also, it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has declared the delta area as protected agriculture zone. I wish to point out that in such ways, Hon'ble Amma's Government has carved out many achievements for the well-being of farmers.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Online registration of unorganized workers

To protect the interests of unorganized workers in the non-formal sector, 17 Unorganized Workers Welfare Boards are functioning in Tamil Nadu. So far, to register their names as members of the Welfare Boards, workers had to go in person to the offices of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Social Security Scheme) in their respective Districts. Now, total lockdown has been introduced in the State to prevent the community spread of Corona Virus and to maintain social distance. This puts the workers in difficulty as they find it difficult to go to the offices of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour to register their names due to absence of transport facilities. To avert this difficulty, now the workers can register their names in the Welfare Boards online. The Labour Department has made provisions to enable the workers to register as members through the online portal, ***https://labour.tn.gov.in.***

Hon'ble Chief Minister promises to fulfil all demands of Coimbatore District

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** , regarding progress of development works and anti-Corona measures in Coimbatore District as well as the Athikadavu-Avinashi lift irrigation scheme at a review meeting held at the Coimbatore Collectorate on 25.06.2020 *(English Translation)*

Welcome to all.

It has been explained in detail by officials how far the Corona Virus has been controlled in Coimbatore District by following the guidelines laid down by the Government. Coimbatore is second only to Chennai in providing medical care for Corona Virus victims. Coimbatore District not only has a greater number of hospitals but also hospitals capable of providing high class treatment.

In keeping with this scenario, it was informed that 10 laboratories have been set up in the District to test for Corona Virus. On an average, about 2,000 people are tested every day, said the District Collector. He also said that so far 37,095 people had been tested for Corona Virus and of them, those who tested positive were given medical treatment for their complete cure. As on date, only 219 people are undergoing treatment. On behalf of the Government and Private hospitals, hospitals with 3,026 beds have been set up. Coimbatore District is at the forefront in anti-Corona activities and thanks to steps taken by the District Administration, the Corona Virus spread is under control in the District.

Similarly officials here explained in detail the schemes that are being undertaken in Coimbatore District by the Corporation, Public Works Department and TWAD Board.

On behalf of the TWAD Board, to provide Protected Drinking Water Supply to the residents of Coimbatore Corporation, foundation stone was laid for a tunnel at Pillur at a cost of Rs.166 crore as the first phase. This scheme has been divided into 3 phases, tenders have been floated and works have started. Soon land acquisition will be over and the project will be

completed as per schedule to provide drinking water to residents of Coimbatore Corporation. LED lamps will soon be fitted in all places leading to saving of power.

Many works are being executed by the Highways Department. I would like to inform through statistics, that compared to Salem, more bridges are being constructed in Coimbatore. Tenders will soon be floated for constructing long bridges in Coimbatore Corporation.

As Coimbatore District has a greater number of industries, traffic congestion has become the order of the day. To make Coimbatore a congestion free city, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been constructing many bridges here. Similarly, foundation stone has been laid for a new central bus stand and works are on. To prevent the entry of vehicles into Salem and Coimbatore, land acquisition is going on for west bypass road and funds have been allotted for it. I am happy to announce that in the State, more works are being executed in Coimbatore District. I am proud to announce that works on behalf of the PWD, TWAD Board, Corporation, Highways Department and Slum Clearance Board are being carried out in an exemplary manner in the District.

Textiles and agriculture industries are flourishing in Coimbatore District and that is the reason why more people are working here. As the District is endowed with all resources, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing various development works in the District through various Departments. I would like to make it clear that Amma's Government is in a position to meet all the demands of all MPs, MLAs, local body representatives and the general public of the District.

I am happy to inform at this meeting that more funds are being allotted for Coimbatore District. Works are going on for setting up more colleges here. I am proud to say that in Coimbatore District you have all facilities. As far as Hon'ble Amma's Government is concerned, as Hon'ble Local Administration Minister said, all works are being executed in an excellent manner. Proper steps are being taken to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in the District. All the schemes announced by the Government are being implemented well. So, I extend my sincere greetings to all the Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, Local Body representatives and all Department officials working in the District.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister addresses meet to insulate MSME sector from testing times

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the meeting with the executives of the Confederation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at the Coimbatore Collectorate on 25.06.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many measures to insulate the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and big industries from being affected in any way even during the present testing times. Coimbatore District is an area where MSME and big industries abound. Taking this into account, we have invited you all and are holding the first consultative meeting in Coimbatore District.

As for Hon'ble Amma's Government, I announced on 31.03.2020 a 'Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited - COVID Relief and Upliftment Scheme' (CORUS) to provide relief to MSME industries through instant credit facility without insisting on property security and allotted Rs. 200 crore for the same. Through this scheme, 1,064 MSME industries were given loan assistance of Rs.125 crore. As a result of our insistence that

the Central Government should give similar loans to MSME industries, sanction has been accorded today to give about Rs.4,145 crore loans to 1,57,098 MSME industries. At the all-India level, this works out to 10 per cent and by obtaining it, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra States are in the forefront. This is the extent to which we have received loan assistance.

With regard to Coimbatore District, 9,991 MSME industries have so far been sanctioned Rs.761.52 crore worth of loans. This is 17 per cent of the loan sanctioned to Tamil Nadu.

Executives of the Confederation have expressed many views here. The Government has announced and is implementing many schemes all over Coimbatore District. As this District is an industrial hub, more funds have been allotted for developing its infrastructure and a large number of bridge works are being executed. This will reduce traffic congestion in a big way. Likewise, land acquisition works are on for laying a West Bypass road. The required funds for it have already been allotted. So too, steps have been taken to construct a very long flyover, running to 8.5 km. on Avinashi road, at a cost of about Rs.1,627 crore.

For uninterrupted supply of drinking water to people, the third Pillur Combined Water Supply Scheme valued at Rs.166 crore, has been introduced and foundation stone for its first stage has been laid here today. In Coimbatore District alone, scheme works are on for 6 Combined Water Supply Schemes. All these works will be completed. Tender was floated for this 7th scheme also and works have commenced.

We are designing a scheme worth several crores of rupees for setting up electric sub-stations to give uninterrupted power supply from another State to cover the entire Coimbatore and Tiruppur regions. Funds have been allotted for land acquisition for airport expansion works and works are going on. As such, the Government has been fulfilling a majority of the demands that you have placed.

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Tmt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced while holding the Defence portfolio that a Defence Corridor will be set up in Coimbatore to enable industries manufacturing spare parts needed for the Army to come up. When it materializes, the number of industries will increase, more job opportunities will be created and the economy will develop. I wish to state that our Government will support the creation of such an environment.

We have all your demands. Our Government will examine the suggestions made by the executives of this Confederation and take efforts to implement them.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister sets the tone for discussing implementation of schemes, Corona prevention

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, on the development works in Tiruchirapalli District, Corona Virus infection prevention works and the construction of Mukkombu barrage at the review meeting held at the Tiruchirapalli Collectorate on 26.06.2020 *(English Translation)*.

At the outset, my grateful respects to all the participants in this review meeting.

Tamil Nadu is putting in an excellent effort in the prevention of Corona Virus infection that is spreading all over India. The Tiruchirapalli District Collector has taken up diligent efforts to prevent the virus spread in the District. The District Administration has also joined the prevention efforts in an excellent way and we are able to see that its spread has been halted.

Medical experts say that this new disease is a contagion that spreads fast. Our Government announced the procedures suggested by the World Health Organization (WHO), Central Health Department, ICMR and our medical experts and as a result of their application by the District Administration in a regular manner, we are in a position to prevent this virus infection today.

At a time when even super powers are unable to prevent this virus from spreading in their countries, I wish to point out that we have kept under control its spread through our strenuous efforts. Officials of concerned Departments will brief this meeting about the extent of the execution of the virus prevention works in Tiruchirapalli District.

Likewise, the implementation of the schemes announced by Hon'ble Amma's Government is to be discussed in this meeting. Hon'ble Amma's Government has announced many schemes for farmers. We are going to review in this meeting whether those schemes have reached farmers fully.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma held a Global Investors Meet in 2015 and attracted about Rs.2,42,160 crore as industrial investment. Hon'ble Amma's Government has attracted more than Rs.3 lakh crores investment, signed about 304 Memorandum of Understanding and these works are being implemented in many Districts. To consider the progress of those industries and to invite suggestions to ensure that various loan assistances announced by Government for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises affected by the Corona pandemic reach the beneficiaries, another consultative meeting is to be held immediately after the conclusion of this meeting.

Likewise, after this meeting it will be discussed whether loans announced for women Self Help Groups reached them in full measure and whether they utilized the loans fully.

I once again convey my grateful respects to all the participants in this event. ■

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** inspected the 300 - bed Covid Care Centre for giving treatment to quarantined Corona Virus affected patients at the Guru Nanak Matriculation Higher Secondary School campus at Velacheri in Chennai on 20.06.2020.

Hon'ble Amma's Government 'will always be supportive of Doctors'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on the occasion of National Doctor's Day - 01.07.2020
(English Translation)

The birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, July 1, is celebrated all over the country as Doctor's Day in appreciation of the sense of duty of life-saving doctors and as an expression of gratitude to them. First, I convey my hearty greetings today to the doctors who are tirelessly working throughout the country for preventing Corona Virus infections from spreading.

The entire country appreciates the work of doctors. In my view, life-saving doctors are akin to God. Our doctors are capable of serving tirelessly beyond time limits and selfishness. In these days of pandemic, doctors are dutifully working with dignity and unmindful of danger to their own lives. Their sacrifice is matchless.

The service rendered by doctors is great. I wish to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government, which is interested in the welfare of doctors, will always be supportive of doctors.

My good wishes at this hour to doctors engaged in the wonderful work of saving human lives. On this excellent day, let us recall the service of doctors and greet them. I convey my heartful greetings to doctors. May their work triumph further.

Sale of groceries through co-operative outlets to meet the demand

A bag of 19 grocery items sold at Rs. 500

The Tamil Nadu Government led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami has been taking a series of measures on a war-footing to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in the State. Various Government Departments are working in tandem to meet the requirements of people without any delay.

The Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department has been implementing various constructive measures to supply essentials to the poor and downtrodden.

After the implementation of Lockdown throughout the State from 25.03.2020, all rice ration card holders in the State were given the Corona Relief of Rs.1,000 per card as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and 98.6 per cent of rice card holders benefited by receiving the relief amount.

In addition, all the ration card holders were supplied rice, dhal, sugar, wheat and cooking oil at no cost for the months of April, May and June. Through the State Government's own finances, every family member of the non-priority rice cardholders was given 5 kg of rice for these 3 months at no cost.

During the Lockdown period, to help people purchase vegetables without any difficulty, Mobile Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets have been functioning from 29.03.2020.

65 Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets, along with 188 mobile shops have sold 4593.048 tonnes of vegetables, costing Rs.12.13 crore till 17.06.2020, thereby meeting the requirements of the people.

As per the order of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, during the Lockdown period 19 varieties of groceries required by the public are being sold through co-operative institutions.

Unfortunately, some newspapers have published wrong information in this connection. The groceries sold through the co-operative institutions are procured through joint procurement committees. Only quality groceries are procured through these committees and so the question of poor quality provisions being sold does not arise at all.

Sale of the groceries through co-operative institutions began after the implementation of the Lockdown. During that period, there were demands for the groceries as many private shops were closed. With a view to supplying quality materials to the public at a fair price, it was decided to sell 10 lakh bags of 19 grocery items each through the co-operative shops and they are being sold to the public. While the cost

of the materials is Rs.597 in the open market, it is only Rs. 500 in co-operative outlets.

Even after the private shops opened after the Lockdown was relaxed, the co-operative outlets continued to sell the groceries. They have been given a target of 10 lakh bags of 19 groceries each at Rs. 500 per bag. In the last two months, till 17.06.2020, 6,91,184 bags costing Rs. 34.61 crore and Rs. 3.16 crore worth provisions -- totally Rs. 37.77 crore - were sold. As the private shops are also opened, there is no shortage of these materials as people are getting them in the open market also. Since, the co-operative outlets are selling quality products, people continue to patronize these outlets. So far, Rs. 37.70 crore worth of groceries have been purchased by people. The fact that people continue to patronize the co-operative outlets even after the opening of private shops after the relaxation of restrictions during the Lockdown period, shows that only quality products are sold in these outlets.

Again the information that salesmen in co-operative outlets are forcing consumers to purchase unsold articles is also false. Instruction has been issued that these groceries should be sold not only to family cardholders but also to the general public.

At present, Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced Lockdown in Greater Chennai Corporation, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and parts of Chengalpattu from 19.06.2020 to 30.06.2020.

Rice ration cardholders in these Districts will be given Rs.1,000 per card, totally at Rs.218.35 crore, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that the amount should be given to the cardholders at their doorstep itself. The employees are carrying out the distribution of cash without any slackness.

The Government has issued an order that the fair price shop employees who are involved in the distribution of essentials should be given a one-time payment of Rs. 2,500 for salesman and Rs.2,000 for packers.

As the Government feels that there should not be any disruption in the supply of essentials due to absence of public transport during lockdown, all the employees of the public distribution system are being given Rs. 200 per day as transport allowance.

The employees working in the fair price shops under the control of Co-operative Department, have benefited as their salaries have been hiked recently by revision of their salary structure.

The fair price shop workers have been given masks, hand gloves and hand sanitizer to protect them from the Corona Virus.

Steps are being taken to provide Government assistance to the fair price shopkeepers in case they are affected by Corona Virus during the distribution of essentials.

The fair price shop employees, in the absence of transport network, are working efficiently during this critical period without considering their personal difficulties and health. They should not be disheartened by such false reports. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for the Nilgiris Government Medical College building

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the Nilgiris Government Medical College through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 10.07.2020. The college is to come up at an estimate of Rs.447.32 crore at Udhagamandalam in the Nilgiris District.

The Tamil Nadu Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is setting up Government Medical Colleges in a gradual manner in Districts that do not have one. In this way, two Government Medical Colleges were set up at Pudukkottai and Karur in the academic years 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 respectively, with a student enrolment of 150 in each. The I.R.T. Medical College in Perundurai, Erode District was converted into a Government Medical College in the 2019-2020 academic year and it is now functioning under the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Further, Hon'ble Amma's Government set up a historic record by getting the Central Government's approval for starting 11 new Government Medical Colleges with Central financial assistance at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, the Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Thiruvallur, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already laid the foundation stone for 10 colleges that are to come up in the Districts of Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Thiruvallur, Kallakurichi and Ariyalur.

In this series, the foundation for the 11th Medical College that has to be set up on a 40-acre area in Udhagamandalam, the Nilgiris District was laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 10.07.2020 through video conferencing. Administrative sanction for setting up this college at an estimate of Rs.447.32 crore has been given. The Central Government's share in this, will be Rs.195 crore and that of Tamil Nadu Government Rs.130; in addition the latter will give Rs.122.32 crore for construction of buildings. The Tamil Nadu Government and the Central Government have respectively released Rs.110 crore and Rs.50 crore in the first phase. The college buildings will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.141.30 crore, hospital buildings at an estimate of Rs.130.27 crore and other buildings like those for housing and hostel at an estimate of Rs.175.75 crore. The college will commence functioning with a student intake of 150 in the MBBS course.

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off fifty quick response vehicles to spray disinfectants

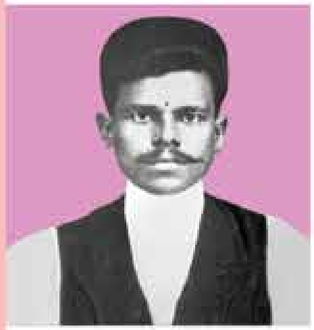
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 07.07.2020, flagged off 7 Quick Response Vehicles for spraying disinfectants in Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu Districts as part of anti-Corona activities, on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Services Department, as a token of inaugurating 50 vehicles.

Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department personnel are involved in spraying disinfectants, as part of anti-Corona activities. About 3 lakh places have been sprayed with disinfectants throughout Tamil Nadu. For this purpose, fire service vehicles are utilized. As a part of anti-Corona activities, to spray disinfectants in narrow streets of Chennai City, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over 25 two wheelers fitted with pressure disinfectant sprayers on 03.06.2020.

In continuation of this, as a part of anti-Corona measures, the Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off the 50 Quick Response Vehicles (Bolera Camper) at the Secretariat on 07.07.2020. These vehicles are fitted with gadgets that convert water into mist and spray the disinfectant. The vehicles also have rubber boats totally worth Rs.8.60 crore for rescue operations during disaster. After completing the anti-Corona activities, these Vehicles will be utilized to control fires in houses and other places in the narrow lanes of Chennai.

July 17 : 'Thiyagigal Dhinam'

Thyagi Sankaralinganar



Sankaralinganar was born in Manmalai Medu Village near Virudhunagar to Karuppasamy Nadar and Valliammai in 1895. He completed his schooling at Enadhinatha Nayanar Vidyalaya in Virudhunagar. He started a Khadi business in Paramakudi.

Sankaralinganar was a Indian Independence activist and Gandhian from India who fasted to death in an effort to change the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu.

The name officially changed to Tamil Nadu on 14 January 1969 by an amendment in the Parliament of India.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates special TV programmes to benefit Class 10 students

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat on 14.07.2020, the telecast of special educational programmes in the Government Education TV channel for 10th standard students to enable them to study from home in view of closure of schools on account of Covid-19 Virus pandemic. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the telecast of lessons for other classes as well as the Scheme for distribution of Textbooks at no cost for the students of 10th and 12th standards.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had launched the Education TV channel on 26.08.2019 for informing people about the School Education Department's schemes and to advise students in regard to public examinations as well as scholarship examinations and entrance examinations. The TV channel telecasts subject exercises beneficial to students from LKG to 12th standard in facing competitive examinations, programmes to develop creativity, experts clarifying doubts of students, School Education Department's announcements, interviews of teachers employing innovative methods to teach, inventions of Government school students, interactions of educationists etc.

The special educational programmes and the lessons for other classes will be telecast from Monday to Friday for two-and-a-half hours.

The distribution of textbooks at no cost for students of 10th and 12th standards in Government and aided schools, is for the academic year 2020-2021. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this scheme on 14.07.2020 by distributing textbooks to boy and girl students. The scheme for downloading video lessons through the high-tech labs set up in all Government higher secondary schools, to help 12th standard students study through the laptops given to them by Government at no cost was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Tamil Nadu Government had set up an experts committee, headed by Commissioner of School Education Tmt. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan I.A.S., to suggest methods to face the educational and teaching difficulties that may occur in the 2020-2021 academic year in view of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. The committee's report was presented to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by the Chairperson of the committee.

News in Picture

In connection with the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Maveeran Azhagumuthukone, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and the Director of Information and Public Relations, Dr. P.Sankar I.A.S., and high officials paid floral tributes to the portrait kept near his statue at Egmore on 11.07.2020.

‘Hon’ble Amma’s Government will take Tamil Nadu ahead in every way’

Hon’ble Chief Minister recalls Perunthalaivar’s sterling qualities, achievements in many fronts

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 15.07.2020 *(English Translation)*

At this hour when we are celebrating as a Government function, the birth anniversary of ‘Perunthalaivar’ Kamarajar, affectionately called ‘Gandhi of South India’, ‘Untutored Genius’ and ‘Karma Veerar’, I feel privileged to recount his greatness.

‘Perunthalaivar’, who was born on July 15, 1903, had service to the nation as his ideal. He totally dedicated himself to the freedom struggle. He was arrested and put in prison by the British Government for his participation in the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha. Prisons beckoned this ‘Thyagaseelar’ several times after that, in the cause country’s independence. He chose to remain single as he felt marriage and a householder’s life would be an obstacle to community service.

He assumed the responsibility of Hon’ble Chief Minister of the then Chennai State in 1954, set up schools all over Tamil Nadu and turned the Tamil community into a highly literate and intelligent one. He sowed the seeds for the Tamil Nadu’s industrial growth by establishing many industries. Similarly, he gave importance to water management and built many dams.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma wholeheartedly praised the ‘Perunthalaivar’ thus: “The simplicity of ‘Perunthalaivar’ Kamarajar enticed not only Tamil Nadu and India but also the whole world. His radiance exuded not only in his dress, but in everything – food, interaction with others, public address etc.”

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. once recalled the love of the ‘Karma Veerar’ towards his mother, stating that he (M.G.R.) had seen many times a small box by the side of Kamarajar but, could not guess its contents and that after Kamarajar’s demise, the box was kept for the public to see and was found to contain a picture of his mother. Even as he loved his mother, ‘Perunthalaivar’ Kamarajar was greatly attached to his motherland.

‘Perunthalaivar’, known for his simplicity and straightforwardness, always considered service to the nation more important than his

post. He renounced his office and worked for the country only on that count. He played a great role in creating leaders at the national level. He was honored with ‘Bharat Ratna’, the highest civilian award of the Government of India.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s tribute to Kamarajar is worthy of recall at this moment. She said: “If ‘Perunthalaivar’ Kamarajar still lives in our memory though hundred years have rolled by after his birth, it is no exaggeration to say that it is due to his simplicity, selfless service, patriotism and sacrifice.”

Like ‘Perunthalaivar’ Kamarajar who left his stamp in all spheres while he was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu – progress in Tamil Nadu people’s standard of living, education, industrial development and water resources – Hon’ble Amma’s Government also will take Tamil Nadu on the path of progress and march ahead confidently.

July 17 : Birthday of Rettaimalai Srinivasan

A path-breaking Leader

Rettaimalai Srinivasan was born on July 7, 1859, in the small town of Maduranthakam in Chengalpattu District. From his 22nd year onwards, he travelled to many cities and showed eagerness to know the history of the oppressed people. In 1891, he joined the Adi Dravida Mahajana Sabha and took up the responsibility of Secretary later.

In 1893, the ‘Paraiyan’ journal that he had begun, did its work of encouraging awareness among the oppressed people. It was published continuously for seven years.

To gather support for his goal of bringing progress to the oppressed people, he decided to go to London and set out on his journey. He was forced to spend some time in North Africa because of ill-health. After this, he went to South Africa. He worked in Government Service there for sixteen years. He was introduced to Gandhi there. He had the opportunity also of working as his translator.

In 1923, he was appointed as a Legislative Assembly Member and performed excellent service. For his services, he was given the titles of Rao Sahib, Rao Bahadur and Diwan Bahadur. He was a Legislative Assembly Member for 15 years.

In 1931, he participated with Ambedkar in the Round Table conference in London and stood by Ambedkar. Rettaimalai Srinivasan, who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the oppressed people, died on September 18, 1945.

(From - Diwan Bahadur Rettaimalai Srinivasan Jeeviya Sarithira Surukkam)

'Tamil Nadu is a Model State in eradicating Child Labour'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the occasion of 'World Day against Child Labour' - 11.06.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Every year June 12 is celebrated as 'World Day against Child Labour' throughout the world to create awareness against Child labour.

It is essential that children born in this world should have right to live, protection and education. To deprive them of their rights is against nature and social justice. Knowing the fact that a nation's bright future lies in children's education, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government saves them from the evils of child labour, helps them enjoy the happiness of childhood and provides them proper education.

To eradicate the child labour in the State, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing various welfare measures for them. It rescues the children who are employed, provides them education in special training centres, gives them uniform, text-books, note-books, bags, footwear, educational gadgets and nutritious meals, all at no cost. Besides, the rescued child labourers who pursue higher education are given Rs.500 every month throughout their study.

The Central Government has brought an amendment in law to prevent adolescent children, who have not completed 18 years of age, from employment in hazardous jobs. The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the amendment in its true spirit and shines as a Model State in eradicating child labour.

Realizing that earnings from children's labour is a disgrace to the nation, the Tamil Nadu Government honours their rights and send them to school. I appeal to all sections of society to support the various measures undertaken by the State Government against Child Labour and rid Tamil Nadu of Child Labour.

Education is the birth right of children and it is our duty to give it to them.

Tamil Nadu bats for free power for farmers; wants '100 units free power' kept out of DBT

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.07.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Thiru. R.K. Singh**, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, New Delhi.

Dear Thiru.R.K.Singh ji,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for the support being rendered to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has the most diversified Electricity Generation portfolio in India with Renewables alone constituting 49.47% of installed capacity. I would like to recall the untiring efforts of our late Chief Minister Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, due to which the State of Tamil Nadu transformed itself into a Power Surplus State. Tamil Nadu has added a massive capacity of 15,410 MW since 2011, by commissioning new Power Stations, by entering into medium and long-term power purchase agreements and by addition of renewable energy sources. Considering the fact that reliable and affordable availability of energy helps in the all-round development of the State, this Government has put in tremendous efforts in this direction and as a result, Tamil Nadu is a Power Surplus State today.

In order to remain a Power Surplus State, I would like to solicit your continuous support for our endeavours and I would also like to bring to your notice the following critical issues that need your kind intervention:-

1. **Electricity Act, 2003 (Amendment), Bill 2020**

   a. The State of Tamil Nadu has conveyed its comments on the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. We have raised a few matters of utmost concern to the State in our comments which are

detrimental to the State Government/ State Utilities.

b. It is the consistent policy of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the farmers should receive free power and it needs to be continued. Therefore, DBT Principle should not be applied for agricultural sector. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been providing 100 units free for all domestic consumers for which Government provides subsidy to TANGEDCO. This scheme may also be kept outside the scope of DBT system.

c. The subsidy given by the State Government to agricultural sector and domestic consumers is released to TANGEDCO directly. The subsidies given by State Government to the Distribution Licensee are properly assessed with the approval of the State Commission. Also, subsidy is being provided to the utility in advance in Tamil Nadu. Hence the mode of payment of subsidy may be left to the consideration of the State Government.

d. Provisions in the draft Amendment Bill, 2020 allowing private franchisee/ sub-licensee would only lead to cherry picking of remunerative areas by the franchisee/ sub-distribution licensee affecting the DISCOMs directly thereby the public interest. The State discoms will be left with serving social sector obligations and rural areas which will result in massive losses to the discoms.

e. Fixing of Hydro Power Purchase Obligation separately to a State like Tamil Nadu cannot be accepted as hydro generation is seasonal and monsoon dependent and not in the control of DISCOMs. To avoid disparity among the States with different sources of Renewable Energy available, it is suggested that Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) can be fixed for total Renewable Energy rather than independently fixing for Solar, Non-Solar, Hydro, etc.

2. PM-KUSUM Scheme

Instead of separating agricultural feeders and solarising them it is better to solarise individual grid connected pump sets. This may be done as 100% grant from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. Separation of agricultural feeder will be a costly proposal and will also cause unrest among farmers.

3. Liquidity infusion in stressed DISCOMs due to COVID-19

Our Government welcomes the Government of India’s liquidity infusion package of Rs.90,000 crore to DISCOMs to clear the dues of Generators and transmission companies, Government of Tamil Nadu has

requested Government of India to relax the norms for working capital under UDAY, since there is no headroom available for TANGEDCO. Further, there are no subsidy overdues from Government of Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, TANGEDCO has already applied for the financial assistance of Rs.20,622 crore to PFC and REC.

Hence, it is requested to expedite the sanction, so as to avail financial assistance at concessional interest rate.

4. Request for releasing of recovered amount in respect of RAPDRP Part-A and conversion of loan to grant in respect of Part-B

The Arbitration award dated 11.06.2020 in respect of the RAPDRP Part-A (IT) project involving the consortium of M/s. ITI Ltd., and M/s. Navayuga Infotech Pvt. Ltd., has been issued in favour of TANGEDCO. M/s. PFC has recovered an amount of Rs.413.83 crore due to cancellation of RAPDRP Part-A (IT) project. Due to the breach of contract by the ITIA (IT Implementing Agency), the amount of Rs. 268.86 crore has to be released back to TANGEDCO.

The RAPDRP Part-B project has been completed in all the 88 towns of TANGEDCO for a value of Rs.2,661.85 crore within the timeline stipulated by the Ministry of Power.

Hence, it is requested to release the recovered amount of Rs. 268.86 crore towards RAPDRP Part-A project and also to convert the RAPDRP Part-B project's 50% loan amount i.e., Rs.1,330.93 crore as grant.

5. Coal Issues

- The total coal required for TANGEDCO's power stations is approximately 72,000 metric tonnes per day and the total Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) quantity available at present including the side agreement is 21.291 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).
- The average realization for the last 5 years is only 61.6% against the agreed FSA quantity. M/s Coal India Limited (CIL) had curtailed the existing linkage quantity of 20.445 MTPA to 18.791 MTPA. This may be restored to 20.445 MTPA.
- Further, I would like to request the Hon'ble Union Minister to consider the enhancement of the linkages allotted to North Chennai TPS II (2X600MW) and Mettur TPS II (1X600MW) to 6.62 MTPA and 3.31 MTPA respectively.
- In order to reduce costs, Coal India may be directed to supply coal at the consumption point of Thermal Plants. This will directly benefit consumers by reducing cost of power.

6. Mines Issues

- The development of the Chandrabila coal block allotted to TANGEDCO has

been adversely affected due to non-issuance of clearance to explore in the forest area of the block. It is requested that the Hon'ble Union Minister for Power may kindly recommend to MoEF & CC in this regard be expedite the clearance.

- As the progress in development of the Chandrabila Coal Block has been affected due to non-issuance of forest clearance, it is requested that the Hon'ble Union Minister for Power may kindly recommend to the Ministry of Coal to give extension of time and revise the time schedule for the development of the Chandrabila Coal Block and not appropriate the performance security provided by TANGEDCO for non-adherence to the agreed time schedule.

- TANGEDCO requires Long Term coal linkage for the upcoming North Chennai Stage-III STPP (1 x 800 MW) and Uppur STPP (2 x 800 MW) to an extent of 5.913 MTPA. As it is most economical for TANGEDCO to take coal from Talcher region and the coal companies, M/s.MCL and M/s.SCCL, have agreed to provide Long Term coal linkage from Talcher region, it is requested that the Hon'ble Union Minister for Power may kindly recommend to the Ministry of Coal to grant Long Term coal linkage for 5.913 MTPA, from Talcher region.

7. Declaration of Raigarh – Pugalur - Trissur HVDC transmission corridor as strategic and national importance

The purpose of Raigarh – Pugalur - Trissur HVDC transmission corridor was to increase the transmission capacity of Inter State Transmission system for import of power into Southern Region. However, the actual power scenario has entirely changed and the Southern Region has become surplus now. It is ascertained by CTU that the Raigarh- Pugalur HVDC corridor would be used for export of 3000 MW renewable energy to Western Region. Since this corridor is going to be beneficially used for export of RE power from Southern Region to rest of the country, it is requested that Raigarh – Pugalur - Trissur HVDC transmission corridor may be declared as strategic and of national importance similar to Biswanath / Chariali (North Eastern Region) – Agra (Northern region) HVDC transmission system.

8. TEDA – CFA pending with MNRE

It is requested to release the CFA amount of Rs.50.88 crore pending for release with MNRE to TEDA.

I request that expeditious action may kindly be taken regarding the above-mentioned critical issues for the sustained growth of power sector in the State of Tamil Nadu.

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Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks flexibility in final semester assessment methods

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 10.07.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Thiru. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, New Delhi.

Dear Thiru. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'ji,

I bring to your kind notice that Covid-19 pandemic is showing a surge in various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu. My Government has been taking all required measures to contain the spread of disease, as well as to provide comprehensive treatment to the infected people. Though the efforts of the Government has borne good results, any minor let up may still pose a challenge to the State.

Due to the progressive policies of the State Government, Tamil Nadu has the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio of 49% among the States, resulting in large number of students studying in various Universities, Colleges and Polytechnics. Though we had scheduled their semester examinations in April 2020, these examinations could not be conducted as scheduled because of Covid-19 pandemic.

The UGC on 29.04.2020 had issued guidelines which gave the flexibility to the Universities and Colleges for the conduct of examinations without any restrictions on the guidelines / directions issued by the appropriate Government / Competent Authority. The new guidelines which were issued on 06.07.2020, mandated that all the Educational Institutions across the country shall conduct examinations by September 2020 for the final semester students.

I would like to bring to your notice that the new guidelines has many constraints and difficulties which include the students reaching the Examination Centres, as many of them are residing outside the District, outside the State and some even outside the country. It is also not feasible to conduct online examinations, considering the various issues relating to digital access to the students. Moreover, most of the Government and Private Arts & Science and Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics and other institutions of Higher learning (including the hostels, classrooms etc.,) in the State have been converted as Covid Care Centres for housing asymptomatic positive persons under

quarantine and these centres may continue as Covid Centres for some more time.

Therefore, if we are not in a position to conduct examinations even after waiting till September 2020, it would jeopardise the future of the students who are in their Final year / Semester. Moreover, it will also unnecessarily affect the future of the students who were recruited through campus selections and the students who have applied for courses abroad, who may have to join in the month of October 2020, after the ban on international travel is lifted.

Many States in the country have taken a decision not to conduct the final semester examinations. In order to ensure career opportunities, future prospects and to simultaneously safeguard the principles of health, safety, fair and equal opportunity for students, the States may be given the freedom to work out its own assessment methods, without compromising on the quality and academic credibility.

In the above context, I request you to direct the respective Apex authorities like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Council of Architecture (COA), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), National Council of Teachers Education (NCTE) and National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology to endorse the decisions of the respective State Governments, which would be based on the local prevailing COVID-19 conditions. This would go a long way in rendering justice and fairness to the parents and the students, during these distressful times.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** met the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** at Raj Bhavan on 04.07.2020 and explained the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus in the State. Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S. and Director General of Police Thiru. J.K.Tripathy I.P.S. were also present at the meeting.

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks e-Passes from Kerala for Kanniyakumari fishermen

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.07.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Thiru. Pinarayi Vijayan** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

I would like to bring to your kind notice that about 350 mechanized fishing boats and 750 traditional boats belonging to Kanniyakumari District fishermen are presently berthed in various fishing harbour / fish landing centres of Kerala State. In view of COVID-19 pandemic, nationwide lock down was announced by the Government and various travel restrictions were enforced to contain the spread of virus.

Due to this, Tamil Nadu fishermen returned to their home towns located in Kanniyakumari District leaving behind their fishing boats in various fishing harbours / landing centres of Kerala State. In view of lockdown restrictions, these fishermen from Kanniyakumari District could neither go to Kerala to look after the maintenance of their boats, nor resume their fishing activities. There are around 25,000 fishermen families of Kanniyakumari District who have lost their livelihood for the past 3 months.

Various fishermen associations of Kanniyakumari District have requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to arrange for entry passes to enter Kerala State, to take up maintenance of their fishing boats immediately, so that they can resume fishing on 01.08.2020 onwards, after the ban period.

In this regard, I request you to issue necessary instructions to the appropriate authorities to issue entry passes, so as to allow the Kanniyakumari District fishermen into Kerala State and also permit them to resume fishing from 1st August 2020 onwards, after the completion of the fishing ban period in the west coast of our country.

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** reviewed the construction works of the Integrated Livestock Park and Veterinary College to be established at international standards at Thalaivasal in Salem District, on 28.06.2020.

Letter to people stresses Government's multi-pronged action against pandemic

Hon'ble Chief Minister echoes 'We shall triumph' mantra, seeks people's co-operation against Corona Virus

Letter dated 07.06.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to people of Tamil Nadu *(English Translation)*.

My fond greetings to my dear Tamil kin.

At this auspicious moment when water is to be released on time for 'kuruvai' cultivation, I deem it my duty to speak to you through this letter.

We, the hoary Tamil people have through the generations faced many challenges and surmounted them all. We have faced natural disasters and conquered them. Likewise, today we are fighting against the Corona pandemic that threatens the human race. There is no doubt we will overcome this also like our forefathers did.

Like crossing the flood of a jungle river, we have crossed a critical period in the last two months with your co-operation and great support. The crises we all face – elders to children – are beyond imagination. The Corona outbreak has given us the suffering of not being able to participate in marriages or in the funerals of near and dear ones. Apart from throwing our day to day lives out of gear, the Corona Virus has affected our economy.

We are all descendants of the ancient and great Tamil race which was courageous both in heart and thought. In tune with the Deiva Pulavar's saying that adversity shrinks in the face of those who are not bowed down by adversity (Idumbaikku idumbai paduppar idumbaikku idumbai padaaathavar), we have advanced ahead in the past, facing such challenges and pulverizing obstacles.

Whether it be drought or tsunami or severe cyclones like Thane, Varda, Ochki and Gaja,

you know that Hon'ble Amma's Government faced them all with the great co-operation of you all, our brothers and sisters and took swift and resolute action, removing miseries even as the sun dispels the mist and created a prosperous future and made Tamil Nadu march ahead proudly in the path of development.

On learning of the outbreak of Corona Virus infections in China, I started acting with focus from January 2020 and expedited many activities. Action on many fronts was undertaken when the occurrence of virus in Tamil Nadu was first found on 07.03.2020.

Lockdown was enforced because Tamil Nadu should never face a situation of community spreading. I know the people of Tamil Nadu have endorsed my kind request to 'keep at a safe distance, keep awake and keep indoors' and are extending their co-operation.

Brothers and Sisters! You might have faced restrictions and difficulties due to this lockdown. I know it is not an easy task for you, the ever active, to curl up and remain at home. Still, at a time when developed European and American countries are struggling to face this virus, a new pandemic for which no medicine has so far been found, we needed extraordinary precautions and discipline. We have realized that mental grit and discipline at the individual level alone will protect us from Corona Virus infection and are acting accordingly.

Keeping people's welfare alone in mind, Hon'ble Amma's Government chose the correct path and enforced the lockdown. Knowing as intelligent people that a single hand raises no sound, you are extending full support to this lockdown. If as a people we had acted without self discipline and shown lack of respect to rules, we would have met with worse consequences.

On account of our joint efforts, the recovery rate from this virus infection is highest in Tamil Nadu in the whole of India. Not only this; the mortality rate is the lowest in Tamil Nadu, not only in India but, in the whole world. This has made medical and public health experts, journalists and neutral persons consistently applaud Tamil Nadu.

From the beginning, that is even before the Corona Virus struck Tamil Nadu, your Government had planned and undertaken many steps on several fronts as a precursor to India, to quell the novel virus. It realized that increasing testing is the only way to understand the nature of this infection and its prevention. As you know, Hon'ble Amma's Government is conducting tests on a larger scale when compared to other States. About 5.50 lakh tests have been conducted till 04.06.2020. Only through these tests we could understand that 86 per cent of the infected persons are asymptomatic. As we could understand this, we were able to speed up our action with several measures against the spreading of this infection.

A new website was created to share information on the virus infections. To monitor the persons coming from abroad and other States, teams comprising officers of many Departments were set up at airports, railway stations and at check posts on the State's borders. More than 2.20 lakh persons were tested at airports and railway stations and infected persons were quarantined. Later, the

borders were closed. This reduced the danger from the infections to a large extent.

At the same time, permission was opportunely granted for agricultural operations and goods transport and scarcity of essential commodities was thus averted. Through this, the difficulties of the poor and middle class people were totally averted and price increase in essential commodities was prevented.

The Tamil Nadu Government announced the Corona Virus infection as a disaster and allotted Rs.4,333.23 crore till 04.06.2020. Enough funds were given for the creation of quarantine and medical facilities jointly by the Department of Health and disease prevention, local bodies and District Administration, for spraying disinfectant in public places and Slum Clearance Board Apartments and for procuring necessary articles and for providing food daily to migrant workers, aged persons, pregnant women, differently-abled persons and for distributing relief.

To check the Corona Virus infection, Hon'ble Amma's Government has undertaken different intensive prevention works and relief works on a war footing. For these works, Rs.378.96 crore has been received in Chief Minister Public Relief Fund till 03.06.2020 from different establishments, voluntary organizations, general public, school children and Government and public sector employees. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to all the good-hearted people who donated willingly and the general public, for parting with their savings accumulated over a period.

To improve the medical and public health infrastructure, retired doctors, nurses and technicians were permitted to continue to work on a contract basis in the months of March and April. About 2,500 nurses were appointed on contract for a month of six months. Till date, 530 doctors and 2,323 nurses were newly recruited by the Medical Services Recruitment Board and appointed. Moreover, 1,500 laboratory technicians, 2,715 multi-purpose health workers and 334 health inspectors have been temporarily appointed.

To provide treatment for those infected, your Government converted a total of 292 hospitals – 123 Government and 169 private sector ones – as COVID-19 hospitals for easy access to medical services.

Till 04.06.2020 more than 14 lakh numbers of testing equipment, 2.83 three-layer face masks, 37 lakh N95 face masks and 25 lakh personal protection equipment were procured and distributed to field workers to the required extent. Enough stocks are in hand. 3,384 ventilators have been kept ready in Government and private hospitals.

With Central Government's permission, testing laboratories have been established all over Tamil Nadu and on an average, 13,000 tests are conducted daily through 72 centres, the highest in the whole of India.

Moreover, Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken action to include Corona Virus in the list of diseases for treatment under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme in private hospitals.

I know the economic status of the poor, small industrialists and petty traders has been affected by this lockdown. Realizing that extending relief to people is the only solution for this, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing with great care, distribution of food articles through fair price shops at no cost, giving cash relief and the like. All the 2.01 crore rice card holders have been given Rs.1,000 each as Corona relief from April 2nd itself.

Even in this abnormal situation, your Government has ensured food security to people as its top priority. Tamil Nadu is the only State that has distributed in an unprecedented manner, rice, sugar, cooking oil, dhal and similar ration articles at no cost successively for 3 months – April, May and June. After completing distribution for the months of April and May to the 2.01 crore family card holders, the distribution is now going on for the month of June. Apart from this, additional rice, besides the usual quota, has been distributed at no cost for all these three months. For the residents of containment zones, ration articles are distributed at their doorstep.

An additional cash relief of Rs.2,000 for the months of April and May has been distributed for 12.13 lakh construction workers, 2.9 lakh manual labourers, 83,500 drivers, 14,667 hair dressers, 22,486 washermen, 9,938 palm-tree workers, 3.96 lakh tailors, 52,464 handicraft artisans, 1.03 lakh handloom and silk weavers, 5,936 footwear and leather processing workers, 1,295 drawing artists, 15,340 goldsmiths, 66,021 domestic helps, 3.21 lakh roadside vendors and workers in shops, 65,715 power loom weavers, 15,019 culinary workers, 30,059 potters – all of them workers in 17 unorganized sectors; and 59,100 workers in firecracker industry, 4.85 lakh fisherfolk, 37,385 folk artists, 46,979 small traders, 33,627 village priests, 14,622 ulemas,12,670 narikuravas, 3,826 'pudhirai vannaar' washer people, 21,679 cine workers, 9,042 khadi craft workers, 45,000 hill residents, 6,553 transgenders, 30,780 sanitary workers, 33,687 persons from notified communities (all members of 14 welfare boards) and 21,770 match box industry workers. Besides, the cash relief of Rs.2,000 has been given to un-registered handloom weavers and hair-dressers also in deference to their request. Totally, 35.65 lakh workers have been given the relief. Additional food articles were given to 13.59 lakh construction workers families and 86,925 drivers families for two months.

Likewise, the Tamil Nadu Government has given about 4.30 lakh Migrant Workers, rice, dhal and oil at no cost. Besides, food has also been distributed to Migrant Workers staying in camps. It is the Tamil Nadu Government that first gave ration articles at no cost to Migrant Workers.

No controls were imposed in the lockdown period on agriculture and agriculture-related works. Further, farmers were exempted from payment of fee to Government for the sale of their produce and for storing their produce in Government godowns. Loan was extended at low rates of interest for farmers.

A 3-month moratorium was given for repayment of crop loan, house loan and the loans obtained in co-operative banks. A similar

extension of time was given for payment of property tax and water tax to local body organizations.

Low tension power consumers in the Districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu for whom the last date for payment of electricity bills ranges from 25.03.2020 to 05.07.2020 can pay their bills till 06.07.2020 without late fee and re-connection fee. Also, if the last date for payment of electricity bills to LT consumers in Districts other than Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu ranges from 25.03.2020 to 14.06.2020, they can settle their bills on 15.06.2020 without late fee and re-connection fee.

You know that Amma canteens, special camps and community kitchens have been functioning as ‘Akshaya Paatram’ (endless source of food) to migrant workers, aged people, differently-abled persons and orphans, during the Corona lockdown period. In these eateries, about 8 lakh people are given hot, tasty and hygienic food at no cost daily.

We should wholeheartedly congratulate Doctors, Nurses, Health workers, Sanitary workers, Departments of Local Bodies, Revenue, Police, Fire Service, Civil Supplies, Workers of Nutritious Meal Programme and Anganwadi and Government servants who are taking on the Corona Virus pandemic shoulder to shoulder with Hon’ble Amma’s Government, for saving the general public from it.

Your Government made timely distribution of required equipment to field workers and ‘kabasura Kudineer’ water, as well as zinc and multi-vitamin tablets, for improving their immunity. Also, Government took care of their treatment in case they contracted the infection. In recognition of about 33,000 sanitary workers’ tireless and selfless field work in Corona Virus prevention, in areas under the limits of Greater Chennai Police and to encourage them, I ordered payment of an honorarium of Rs.2,500 to them.

A COVID Relief & Upliftment Scheme (CORUS) is being implemented under the Tamil Nadu Rural Innovation scheme with a fund of Rs.300 crore for developing rural industries and increasing the income and to benefit about 1.40 lakh persons.

Your Government, through an order, permitted execution of works under the National Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee scheme even during the lockdown period. Through this, job opportunity was given during the lockdown period also to the poor and marginalized people in rural areas. Also, two days wages were given as relief to about 27 lakh workers (amounting to Rs.123 crore).

Appropriate measures were taken to further incentivize the State’s economy and industrial sector. With full confidence, and with focus and great care the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing many initiatives for lighting up the lives of workers. To retrieve the Tamil Nadu economy from the impact of the Corona outbreak and to re-structure it, the Government has set up an experts committee under the Chairmanship of the renowned economics expert and former Reserve Bank of India Governor, Dr. C. Rangarajan.

The following steps have been taken to remove the hardships faced by a majority of industries, particularly the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), due to the lockdown:

* A three-month moratorium for repayment of loan instalments for MSME industries for the loans obtained from Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation.
* A similar time gap for industries that have received loans through SIPCOT.
* On 31.03.2020, I announced a 'COVID Relief and Upliftment Scheme' (CORUS) for providing relief to MSME industries from Corona-inflicted economic damage. This scheme envisages issue of loan to an enterprise up to Rs.25 lakh with Tamil Nadu Government's 6% interest subsidy. Till 01.06.2020, a loan sanction of Rs.112 crore has been given to 855 MSME industries.
* Special concessions have been given to 50 industries manufacturing COVID-19 medicines and equipment.

Tamil Nadu has got the historic fame of having conducted mercantile trade with the countries of Rome and Greek, two thousand years ago. To make Tamil Nadu an important manufacturing hub by exploiting the desire of multi-national companies to start their industrial units in countries like India and to shift their industries functioning in some countries, a special investment working group has been set up. It is engaged in the task of attracting investments.

As a first phase, MoUs have been signed on May 26 with 17 enterprises located in countries inclusive of the USA, France and England for investing about Rs.15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu. This will facilitate jobs to 47,000 of our youths.

Committees headed by IAS officers and a separate website have been created to bring back Tamils desiring to return from overseas countries and other States. They are brought back to Tamil Nadu, through this, without any difficulty.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is your Government; the people's Government; a Government that fulfils the desires of people. That is how it is able to meet their daily essential needs without difficulty and without hassles even in this critical period. There is not even an iota of doubt that we, the Tamils, have the strength and faith to fully come out of the challenges we have been facing for the last few months.

This Government, bent on ensuring your welfare is taking up the correct ways and means in this task of protecting the people of Tamil Nadu, fearlessly, honestly and truthfully. Doctors, Nurses, Health workers, Sanitary workers, Departments of Local Administration, Revenue, Police, Fire Service, Civil Supplies and other Government Servants are supportive of the Government and are carrying out selfless and tireless field work round-the-clock without caring for their personal welfare. I dedicate my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to them on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on this occasion. Your Government is taking quick

action, politically, economically and socially for the people of Tamil Nadu so that they can lead a healthy and happy life. As a people's Government, it is certain that this Government will remain with the people for ever.

Even if Government imposes lockdown and many controls, it is not possible to prevent Corona Virus infection unless people co-operate fully. People should wash their hands often with soap, both at home and in the work place. To the extent possible, they should avoid going out unnecessarily. In unavoidable situations, they should wear face mask without fail, while going out. I fondly request you to observe properly social distancing and follow a healthy life-style and good food habits.

We have to protect people's livelihood and the country's economy. In this situation, with the experience we have already gained, each one of us should realize that it is one's duty to act with a sense of precaution, protect oneself from Corona Virus infection and follow the norms and procedures announced by the Government. The standard office procedures charted out for each Department should be observed. If the Government and people work together in this manner, I can guarantee that Tamil Nadu will come out of the damage caused by the Corona Virus outbreak and victoriously march ahead in all fields in accordance with the Kural, 'Oozhaiyum uppakkam kaanpar ulaivindrith thaazhaadhu ugnatrupavar" (Those who strive with undismayed and unfaltering mind, at length shall leave opposing fate behind).

"Let us wear face mask without fail! Let all of us observe social distancing! Let us avoid unnecessary outings! Let us quell Corona !"

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Repatriation sought of remaining fishermen

Text of the D.O. letter dated 10.07.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Dr.S. Jaishankar**, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, New Delhi.

Dear Dr. Jaishankar ji,

Kindly recall my letter dated 19th May, 2020 wherein I had requested for repatriation of stranded fishermen from Iran to Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, 681 fishermen have been repatriated safely to Tamil Nadu via INS Jalashwa on 1st July, 2020 and I thank you for the same. Further, around 40 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been left behind due to inadequacy of space in the ship. Therefore, I request you to arrange for their repatriation at the earliest to Tamil Nadu in a special flight.

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks continuation of existing criteria for OBC creamy layer

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.07.2020 of **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Thiru. Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

The Government of India had reserved 27% of the vacancies in civil posts and services falling under its purview for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to be filled through direct recruitment, subject to the condition that the aforesaid reservation shall not be applied to persons/sections specified as creamy layer from amongst OBCs.

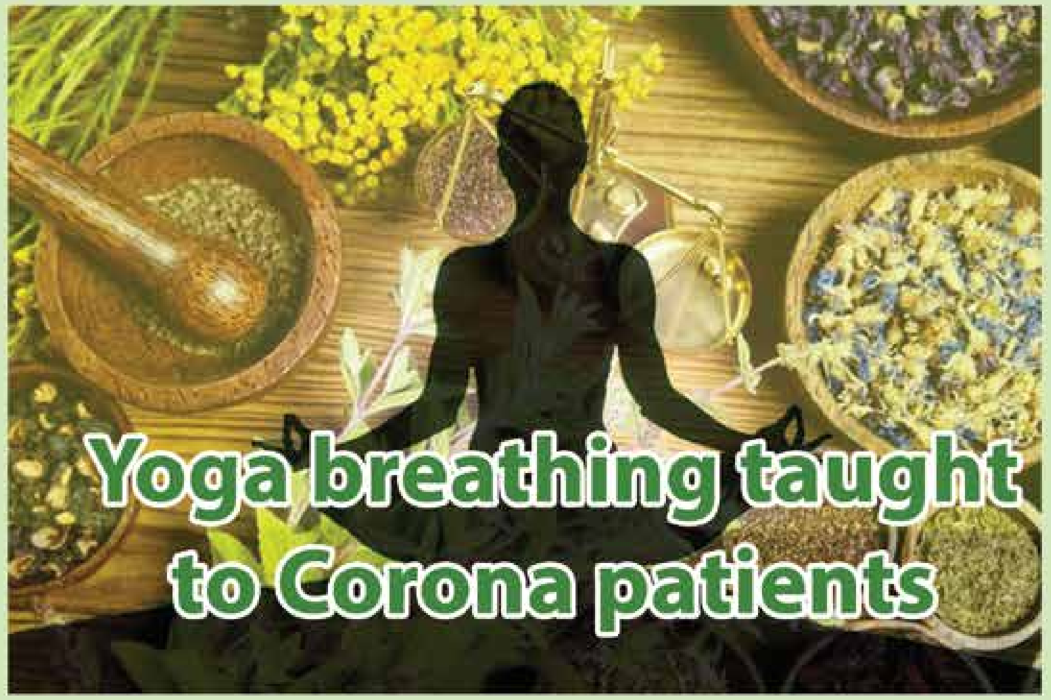
There are six criteria for assessing the persons to be excluded as creamy layer within OBCs. One of the creamy layer criteria specifies income limit for exclusion from OBCs. The income limit of the parents for the wards to whom OBC status can be claimed, was fixed at Rs.1 lakh per annum initially in the year 1993. Subsequently, the income limit was revised Rs.8 lakh with effect from 01.09.2017.

It is reported in the media that Government of India is contemplating revision of the criteria for creamy layer among OBCs by including salary and agricultural income. These are currently excluded from the calculation of income for the purpose of determining the creamy layer for OBCs, to grant reservation and welfare measures.

If salary and agricultural income of the parents are considered to be part of the overall income of the parents, this would disallow OBC status to several deserving OBCs from availing reservation in admissions to jobs, as well as welfare schemes under the Central Government.

I request you Sir, to continue the existing policy of determining the creamy layer by excluding agricultural and salary income.

I would also like to suggest that the Government of India may consider providing OBC reservations by following the Tamil Nadu model, which would benefit the Backward Classes across the country equitably and render complete social justice.



Based on orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** Yoga and Naturopathy treatment has been given to more than 61,000 persons till now. Statement of Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr C. Vijayabaskar on 14.07.2020 *(English Translation)*

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to take many steps to control Corona Virus infections. As a part of this, siddha and yoga treatments are also given along with allopathic treatment to the Corona virus infected persons.

Most of the Corona Virus affected persons are likely to develop lung problems. If, they take up breathing exercises continuously, lung performance will increase and the wind pipes function smoothly. Some easy yoga exercises also promote immunity. Taking all this into account, these exercises are taught to Covid-19 patients at the places of their treatment itself. Apart from these, herbal potions, nutritious food inclusive of 'nava dhaniyam' and millets, steam inhalation and aroma therapy are provided. More than 200 yoga and naturopathy doctors are engaged in these tasks.

Yoga and naturopathy treatment are given in 86 places – Government Medical College hospital, District Headquarters hospital, Taluk hospital and Corona treatment centres. Till now, more than 61,000 persons have benefited from this. Depending on the need, these treatment methods will be extended.

Welfare measures like these of Hon'ble Chief Minister will further strengthen Corona Virus prevention and treatment efforts.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates CBG Plant at Namakkal, 5 biogas fuel stations

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Dedication and inauguration of CBG Plant and CBG fuel Stations in Tamil Nadu on 23.06.2020 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Thiru. Dharmendra Pradhan ji,

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Departments,

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Noon Meals Programme,

Respected Chief Secretary, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Indian Oil Corporation Chairman, Secretary, Energy Department, Chairman and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and participants in this function.

Vanakkam.

I am happy to inaugurate the Compressed Bio-Gas Plant at Namakkal in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister Thiru. Dharmendra Pradhanji.

I am extremely happy to inaugurate the Compressed Bio-Gas Plant, installed at a cost of Rs. 25 crore in Namakkal and 5 CBG fuel stations in Namakkal, Salem, Puduchatram and Rasipuram on behalf of the Indian Oil Corporation.

IOT, Infrastructure and Energy Services Ltd., a joint venture of the Indian Oil Corporation and the Germany's Oiltanking Company, has set up the Bio-Gas Plant, at a cost of Rs. 34 crore that produces 2.4 MW Bio-Gas. The Company has procured machinery worth Rs. 25 crore for setting up the plant that produces Compressed Bio-Gas. The Plant will manufacture 15 tonnes of Compressed Bio-Gas and 20 tonnes of Bio-Manure.

Tamil Nadu is the foremost State in renewable energy production. Of the total installed capacity of 15,876 MW of renewable energy, Hydel Power constitutes 2,322 MW, Wind Energy 8,523, Solar Power 4,054 MW, Bio-mass 266 MW and Co-generation 711 MW.

The total installed capacity of Gas Turbine Power Plants in the State is 1013 MW. Of this, the State is entitled to 516 MW and private units 497 MW.

To meet the increasing demand of power in Chennai City, the State Government has planned to set up 2 Joint venture Gas Turbine Power Plants in and around Chennai City.

Indian oil Corporation Limited, a premier Public Sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has established this Compressed Bio-Gas plant at Namakkal.

I am grateful for the support of Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Dharmendra Pradhanji in leading this initiative.

I wish more such steps are undertaken in Tamil Nadu and my Government will support such steps of the Government of India for clean energy.

I once again thank you for this opportunity.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tamil Thai Vaazhthu

Tamil Thai Vaazhthu is the State anthem of Tamil Nadu and it invokes Mother Tamil. The song was penned by Thiru. P. Sundaram Pillai in his play Manonmaniam in the year 1891. The verses beginning with 'Neerarum Kadaludutha' were taken as the Vaazhthu song of Tamil and a Government order was issued on June 17, 1970.

A Government order was issued that the song should be sung in Government functions and in schools in the morning before the beginning of classes. The order has been kept in force in schools and Government functions till today.

Mellisai Manner M.S.Viswanathan composed the music for the song and it was sung by playback singers T.M.Sounderarajan and P.Sushila. 'Neerarum Kadaludutha' has completed 50 years (Golden Jubilee) as the anthem song of the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Ariyalur Government Medical College buildings

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 07.07.2020, laid the foundation stone for the Ariyalur Government Medical College to be opened at Ariyalur South Village in Ariyalur Taluk in Ariyalur District, at a cost of Rs.347 crore through video conferencing, on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated PET C.T.Scan, 2 Linear Accelerators and 4 M.R.I.Scans, all worth Rs.89.75 crore, for the use of Government hospitals.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been starting Medical Colleges in the Districts where there are no such colleges, in stages. In the academic year 2017-2018, a new Government Medical College at Pudukkottai, with an intake of 150 students and in the academic year 2019-2020, the Karur Government Medical College, with an intake of 150 students were declared open. The IRT Medical College at Perundurai in Erode District was converted into a Government Medical College and is functioning under the Health and Family Welfare Department from 2019-2020. With the financial assistance of the Central Government, in the year 2019, permission was granted by the Centre to start 11 new Medical Colleges, one each in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, the Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Thiruvallur, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi Districts, which is a record achievement by the Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Already, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has laid foundation stones for new Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Kallakurichi and Thiruvallur Districts.

In this series, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for the Medical College at Ariyalur on a 27-acre site through video conferencing. For the new Medical College, administrative sanction for Rs. 347 crore has already been sanctioned. Of this, the Central Government will give its share of Rs.195 crore and the State its share of Rs.130 crore along with Rs.22 crore for constructing college buildings. In the first phase, the Tamil Nadu Government released Rs.100 crore and the Centre Rs.50 crore. For the new Government Medical College, Rs. 102.55 crore will be spent for constructing medical college buildings, Rs.125.25 crore for hospital buildings and Rs.119.20 crore for housing and hostel buildings. The Medical College will have an intake of 150 students.

On the same occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated PET C.T.Scan and a Linear Accelerator, installed at a cost of Rs.40 crore, for cancer treatment at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital;

A linear accelerator at the Coimbatore Regional Cancer Centre at the Coimbatore Government Medical College and Hospital, installed at a cost of Rs. 25 crore;

4 M.R.I Scans, one each at Tiruppur Government Medical College Hospital, Perundurai Government Medical College Hospital at Perundurai in Erode, Government Medical College Hospital at Perambalur and Kancheepuram Medical College Hospital, totally costing Rs. 24.75 crore.

Totally medical instruments, worth Rs. 89.75 crore were dedicated for public use.

News in Picture

In connection with 'Thiyagigal Dhinam' on 17.07.2020, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Dr. P.Sankar I.A.S., and high officials paid floral tributes to the portraits of Thiyagi Arya (alias) Bhashiyam, Thyagi Sankaralinganar and Thiyagi Shenbagaraman kept near their statues at the Manimandapam for 'Thiyagigal' in the Gandhi Mandapam complex, Guindy, Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stones for Manimandapams of five great Tamils

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 16.06.2020, on behalf of the Information and Public Relations Department, laid foundation stones through video conferencing for constructing Manimandapams with full-size statues for Perarasar Perumpidugu Mutharaiyar, Sir.A.T.Panneerselvam and M.K.Thyagaraja Bhagavathar at a total cost of Rs. 1.85 crore at K.Abishekapuram, Tiruchirapalli West Taluk in Tiruchirapalli District.

On the same occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stones for a Manimandapam with a full-size statue of Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai and a full-size statue of Allala Elaya Nayagar with dome, at a total cost of Rs.1.14 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government, with a view to glorify and honour the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country and Tamil scholars who dedicated themselves for the development the Tamil language, has been setting up Memorials, Ninaivu Illams, Commemoration Pillars and Manimandapams and maintaining them properly so that the younger generation comes to know about their sacrifices.

Hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 14.02.2019 under Rule 110 announced:

"A Manimandapam with full-size statue of Perarasar Perumpidugu Mutharaiyar and a library will be established in Tiruchirapalli District;

A Manimandapam and a library for Kavimani Desiga Vinayakam Pillai will be established in Therur in Kanniyakumari District, with a full-size statue, following representations made by people;

A Manimandapam, with a full-size statue of Sir. A.T.Panneerselvam, who was known as the Diamond Pillar of Justice Party will be established in Tiruchirapalli District. On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, he will be honoured every year by garlanding of the statue.

Thiru. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar created a multi-faceted record both in the film world and in the classical music sphere. To commemorate his services, the Tamil Nadu Government will set up a Manimandapam with a statue of Bhagavathar in his native District of Tiruchirapalli.

Thiru. Allala Elaya Nayagar was instrumental in setting up a check dam across the Cauvery and dug Raja Vaikkal in Jedarpalayam in Namakkal District, benefiting about 5,000 acres. Following the demand by local farmers, the Government has decided to honour Thiru. Allala Elaya Nayagar by installing a full-statue with dome".

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stones at the Secretariat through video conferencing for Manimandapams with full-size statues of Perarasar Perumpidugu Mutharaiyar at his native place K.Abishekapuram in Tiruchirapallai West Taluk, in Tiruchirapalli District at a cost of Rs. 99.25 lakh; at a cost of Rs. 43.40 lakh for Sir A.T.Panneerselvam and for M.K.Thyagaraja Bhagavathar at a cost of Rs. 42. 69 lakh.

In addition, a Manimandapam with a full-size statue of Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai, at a cost of Rs. 92.27 lakh at Thovalai Village, Thovalai Taluk in Kanniyakumari District and a full-statue of Allalla Elaya Nayagar with Dome, at a cost of Rs.21.80 lakh, on the left bank of the River Cauvery at Vadakaraiattur Village in Jedarpalayam in Paramathi-Velur Taluk in Namakkal District.

Totally, foundation stones were laid for 5 Manimandapams at a cost of Rs 2.99 crore by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. ■

All-round measures to tackle Corona pandemic; recoveries highest, fatalities comparatively less

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 16.06.2020 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Amma's Government, while taking protective measures against Corona Virus spread, has been providing necessary relief measures to the poor and the downtrodden, apart from being actively engaged in taking economic revival measures in the State. Due to the multi-pronged steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government, the percentage of Covid-19 patients who have recovered after treatment in the State is the highest in the country. Similarly, the number of deaths due to the disease in the State is comparatively less.

The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing lockdown in the State till 30.06.2020, following the Central Government's decision to implement the lockdown throughout the country, under the National Disaster Management Act.

I have announced a relief of Rs. 1,000 each to 13.35 lakh differently-abled persons with Identity Cards in the State, taking into consideration their livelihood during the lockdown period. ■

Three railway bridges replace level crossings

Bridge declared open across Vellaru at Vanniyampatti in Pudukkottai District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 28.05.2020, on behalf of the Highways and Minor Ports Department, declared open through video conferencing, a bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs. 6.42 crore, across the river Vellaru on the Vanniyampatti-Maniampalam Road in Vanniyampatti, Tirumayam Division in Pudukkottai District .

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 13 bridges and office buildings, built at a cost of Rs. 29.85 crore in Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Tiruvarur, Karur, Erode, Tiruppur, Madurai and Dindigul Districts and laid foundation stones for a river bridge and 3 railway road overbridges to be constructed in lieu of 3 railway level-crossings in Villupuram and Salem Districts, at a cost of Rs. 70.23 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been constructing new bridges and laying quality roads wherever required and maintaining roads and bridges with a view to meeting the increasing volume of road traffic and also for ensuring safe travel to passengers as road infrastructure is essential for the social and economic development of the State.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu declared open a completed bridge across River Vellaru on the Vanniyampatti - Maniampalam road in Vanniyampatti Village in Tirumayam Division in Pudukkottai District, constructed at a cost of Rs. 6.42 crore.

Across Servalaru in Mundanthurai on the Ambasamudram - Papanasam - Melanai Road

in Ambasamudram Division in Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs. 9.17 crore;

Across Muraiyaru on the Pondy-Krishnagiri Road in Chengam Division in Tiruvannamalai District, at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore;

On the Bommidi Railway Station – Thoppaiyaru Dam Road at Bommidi in Pappireddipatti Division in Dharampuri District, at a cost of Rs. 2.62 crore;

In Tiruvarur District on the Mannargudi – Orathanadu – Tiruvonam Road at Therkku Natham in Mannargudi Division in Tiruvarur District at a cost of Rs. 1.10 crore, at Ovelkudi on the same road at a cost of Rs.1.15 crore and on the Adhanur - Mandapam - Vaduvur Road in Ayyampatti, at a cost of Rs. Rs. 1.70 crore;

In Karur District Krishnarayapuram Division, at Sevapur on the Palaviduthi - Kadavur - Ayyalur Road at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore, at Thoppampatti on the Vairamadai - Thoppampatti - Kuppam Road at a cost of Rs.88 lakh and at Kadavur on the Palaviduthi - Kadavur - Ayyalur Road, at a cost of Rs. 99 lakh;

In Bhavani division of Erode District, at Boothapadi on the Andhiyur - Ammapettai Road at a cost of Rs. 1.12 crore and at Thittaparai on the Kolanalli Railway Station - Veerasangili Road at cost of Rs. 1.82 crore;

In Tiruppur District, Kangeyam division on the Thanneerpandal – Kambiliyampatti - Lakkamanaickenpatti Road, at Devanampatti, at a cost of Rs. 2 crore and in Thavasipudur on the Thavasipudur - Vadugapatti Road in Madurai South Division, Madurai District, at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

Totally 14 bridges, costing Rs. 35.37 crore were opened for public use by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open a Divisional Office in the campus of the Tourist Bungalow of Highways Department in Palani in Dindigul District, at a cost of Rs.55 lakh and at Thandrampet in Tiruvannamalai District, sub-divisional and branch offices, at a cost of Rs. 35 lakh.

A bridge across Malattaru River at Kavanipakkam on the Villupuram – Kavanipakkam Road in Villupuram District, at a cost of Rs. 16.51 crore;

Three Railway overbridges, one each at Peramachur between Magnesite - Omalur Railway Stations in lieu of railway level crossing No.7, at a cost of Rs. 15.94 crore; at Tholasampatti between Omalur and Mecheri Railway stations in lieu of level crossing No.15, at a cost of Rs. 18.44 crore and on the Sankagiri - Mecheri Road in Mettur Division between Omalur and Mecheri Railway stations in lieu of railway level crossing No.18, at a cost of Rs. 19.34 crore.

Totally a river bridge and 3 Railway overbridges, costing Rs. 70.23 crore were thrown open for public use by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Chief Minister dedicates sports infrastructure worth Rs. 27.44 crore

Velodrome for track cycling at Melakottaiyur, six-lane synthetic track at Udhagamandalam

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 28.05.2020, on behalf of the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department, opened a new, modern Sports complex building constructed at a cost of Rs.15.62 crore in the Kancheepuram District Sports Stadium, Kancheepuram District; a velodrome for track cycling and an administrative office building at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University at Melakottaiyur in Chengalpattu District, laid at a cost of Rs.6.98 crore and a six-lane synthetic athletics track, laid at a cost of Rs.4.85 crore at the District Sports Complex at Udhagamandalam in the Nilgiris District.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has made provisions for giving proper training to sportspersons in the State and provides them hostel facilities so that, they can participate and win in International and National-level sports competitions. To encourage Rural sportspersons, Village level sports meets are conducted, besides developing sports grounds in Districts, encouraging traditional games, and sanctioning cash incentives and financial assistance for sportspersons who participate in International events.

As a part of this, the dilapidated building and sports infrastructures at the Kancheepuram District Sports complex were demolished and replaced by a new modern complex, constructed at a cost of Rs.15.62 crore. The new Administrative buildings have a seminar hall, employees building, trainers room, office room and dressing rooms for men and women, kitchen, dining hall, hostel facilities computer

room, library, records room, stock room, first-aid room, toilets, basketball and volleyball courts and open-air ground with spectators gallery;

In the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University campus at Melakottaiyur in Chengalpattu District, a 333-metre circumference cycling velodrome with facilities for training and viewers gallery, separate rooms for sportsmen and sportswomen, cycle workshop, cycle stock room, exercise room, trainers room, office room and toilets, built at a cost of Rs.6.98 crore;

In the Nilgiris District at the District Sports Stadium, with the participation of the Central and the State Governments, a six-lane 400 metre synthetic track, has been laid at a cost of Rs 4.85 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open, sports infrastructure valued totally at Rs. 27.44 crore from the Secretariat through video conferencing.

Calling aged Tamil Scholars: apply for pension

The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the monthly Pension Scheme for aged Tamil scholars through the Department of Tamil Development.

Eligibility to apply: Should have completed 58 years of age on 01.01.2020. Annual income within Rs. 72,000. Online income certificate from Taluk office, evidence for having performed service to Tamil language, eligibility certificates from two Tamil scholars should be attached with the application form that can be obtained in person or be downloaded free of cost from the website of the Department of Tamil Development (www.tamilvalarchithurai.com).

Those selected under this Scheme will get a monthly pension of Rs.2,500, medical allowance of Rs.500 and a free bus pass for life.

Applications should be forwarded through the offices of the Regional Deputy Director of Tamil Development / District Deputy Director of Tamil Development / District Assistant Director of Tamil Development functioning in the District Collectorate concerned. Those in Chennai District can send their applications directly to the Director, Tamil Development Directorate, Tamizh Salai, Egmore, Chennai – 8. Applications should reach the above address on or before 30.09.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates online classes to coach students for NEET 2020

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on behalf of the School Education Department, inaugurated online NEET 2020 coaching classes for the Students of 12th Standard, at the Secretariat on 16.06.2020.

To enable students face examinations like NEET with confidence, Hon'ble Amma's Government started exclusive coaching classes for the students of Government and Government-aided Higher Secondary Schools in the State on 13.11.2017. These coaching classes were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the coaching classes are being run successfully in 412 centres, one each in every Panchayat Union.

In view of the continued closure of the schools in the State due to Corona Virus outbreak, the School Education Department entered into an agreement with the Amphisoft Technologies (E-box) for coaching students of the 12th Standard for the NEET 2020 Examinations. So far, 7,420 students have registered for the training programme.

Amphisoft Technologies will conduct daily online classes of one hour duration each for Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology; the total duration of the classes every day will therefore be 4 hours. In addition to this, it has been planned to conduct 80 practice tests and 80 formative tests, 5 unit examinations and 12 revision examinations.

In order to succeed, you must read!

Windows light up the house; a house without books is like a room without windows. Only books are like good friends who never cheat us. When we read good books, our thinking power increases, noble thoughts flower into our mind and our ideas travel on the right path.

Books increase our mental prowess, they make our talents glow. Because of books our enthusiasm rushes forth, depression takes leave, a sense of fulfillment fills the mind. Books help us take courageous decisions, they enrich our lives and show the way to progress.

Those who read books have fought for the freedom of their countries; they have changed the course of history.

Good books enrich our lives

Only books show us the correct path to solve our problems; when depression and tension overwhelm us, books bestow peace, clarity and give us guidance and counsel.

Books should be included in the list of essential items

Just as we don't miss purchasing essential articles for ourselves and for our homes, we should develop the habit of buying books and reading them for improving our knowledge and progressing in life. Purchase of books should not be construed as expenditure; it is investment! Like investments that bring interest, money spent on books is the capital that creates knowledge.

Let us develop the good habit

Many people say they have no time to read books. One can read books while travelling by flight or train and while waiting for a doctor, high official or political leader. One can thus spend time usefully rather than letting it go waste. Also, a fixed time can be set apart for reading books every day. We waste our valuable time in entertainment and meaningless talk and gossip with our friends. But when it comes to reading books to improve ourselves, we wail that we have no time! It's laughable!

Hence, we should read books without wasting the time available to us. Let us develop the good habit of borrowing books from libraries and reading them.

Let us take children to libraries and nurture the reading habit in him

Everyone should set up a small library in the house by purchasing books. This will provide an opportunity for the entire family to read and develop its knowledge. Children growing up in an ambience of learning will grow to be knowledgeable, self-confident, pleasant mannered, straight-forward and eager to come up in life.

In this world, no one who read good books ever went to seed. Those who have taken reading books as a duty and valued it as life-giving have attained a very high status.

Books guide us like parents, they support one like a good wife, they give happiness like children, they advise like a friend.

Yes, friends! Let us read good books every day to improve our knowledge; let us love reading and use it in life.

Protecting livelihoods, attracting investments in pandemic times

Hon'ble Amma's Government follows nuanced approach of lockdown and relaxation to quell Corona

Hon'ble Amma's Government is functioning with focus to protect people from Corona Virus infections and provide them the required relief swiftly. This is why the percentage of recovery after treatment in Tamil Nadu is high in the country and that of mortality due to the virus is low. At the same time, Hon'ble Amma's Government has retrieved people's livelihood and is relaxing lockdown norms as and when required to develop the economy, attract new investments through special measures and implementing new schemes for industrial growth.

Following the enforcement of lockdown by the Central Government under the National Disaster Management Act all over India from 25.03.2020 for preventing Corona Virus infections from spreading, the Tamil Nadu Government also implemented lockdown throughout the State. The lockdown was extended with some relaxations till 30.06.2020 after taking into account the present nature of the virus and the livelihood of the people. At the same time, to remove the difficulties faced by the poor due to the lockdown, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami ordered the supply of all ration articles at no cost to all the 2.01 crore rice-ration drawing families for the months of April, May and June, additional supply of articles like rice to construction workers and drivers in the unorganized sector and a second instalment of cash relief of Rs.1,000 each to 35.65 lakh workers who are members of 17 Labour Welfare Boards in the unorganized sector and other welfare boards in different sectors.

At the consultative meeting held by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with medical and public health experts on 29.06.2020, the experts said that the Corona Virus infection could be controlled to an extent since the preventive steps taken now are excellent and that prevention works and restrictions should be intensified in containment zones. For preventing the Corona Virus from spreading, the current lockdown, due to expire on 30.06.2020 is being extended under Disaster Management Act, with the present restrictions and relaxations till midnight of 31.07.2020. This decision has been taken on the basis of the review meetings conducted by Hon'ble Chief Minister on various days, particularly on the basis of the views expressed by District Collectors at the video conferencing held on 22.06.2020, the recommendations given

by the expert committee headed by the additional Chief Secretary for the Finance Department and set up for relaxing the lockdown, on the consultations held with public health experts on 29.06.2020 and after consultations with senior Ministers.

However, the 12-day total lockdown in operation in Chennai, certain parts of Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram Districts from early morning 00 hours on 19.06.2020 to 12 midnight of 30.6.2020 and the 7-day total lockdown (00 hours on 24.06.2020 to 12 midnight 30.6.2020) in certain parts of Madurai District will be continued till 05.07.2020 since it has helped to bring the Corona Virus infection under control. The areas where total lockdown will continue till 05.07.2020 are those under the jurisdiction of Greater Chennai Police in Chennai, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram Districts and in Thiruvallur Municipality, Gummudipoondi, Ponneri and Minjur Town Panchayats and in all Panchayats under the Panchayat Unions of Poonamallee, Ekkadu and Sholavaram in Thiruvallur District, in Chengalpattu and Maraimalainagar Municipalities, Nandhivaram-Guduvancheri Town Panchayat and in all Panchayats under Kattankulathur Panchayat Union, areas under Madurai Municipal Corporation, Paravai Town Panchayat and all Village Panchayats under the Taluks of Madurai East and West and Thiruparankundram. The total lockdown in these areas was promulgated under Disaster Management Act 2005 as the incidence of infection was more in these areas. The pre-19.06.2020 State of lockdown will continue in Chennai and its neighbouring Districts from early morning 00 hours on 06.07.2020 to 12 midnight on 31.07.2020. Likewise, the pre - 24.06.2020 lockdown will continue from 06.07.2020 to 31.07.2020 in Madurai and its surrounding places.

Fish, poultry meat and egg shops will be allowed, subject to the physical distancing norm like the previously permitted vegetable/fruit shops, after getting proper commercial licence from Greater Chennai Corporation, Municipal Corporations, Town Panchayats and Village Panchayats.

The ban, already in operation, on the following activities will continue till revised order is issued:

- Public worship in urban and large places of worship
- All religious congregations
- Outsider tourists are banned from visiting the Nilgiris District and other tourist places like Kodaikanal and Yercaud.
- Hotels with lodging facilities, resorts and other hospitality services. However, for persons from other States including medical and police personnel, Government Employees and for quarantine works, exemption is granted.
- Shopping Malls
- Schools, colleges, training institutions, research centre and all educational institutions. However these institutions can continue their online education and also encourage it.
- Ban on international air service, barring works permitted by the Central Home

Ministry, will continue.

- ✶ Metro rail/Electric Train
- ✶ Places where people assemble in large numbers like theatres, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment resorts, bars, huge auditoriums, seminar halls, beaches, tourist places, zoos and museums.
- ✶ All types of community, political, sports, recreational, cultural events, religious and educational celebrations, meetings and processions;
- ✶ Inter-State bus transport.

The above restrictions will be relaxed gradually, depending on the impact of the Corona Virus.

TOTAL LOCKOUT:

Total lockout without any relaxation will be enforced all over Tamil Nadu on all Sundays – 5, 12, 19 and 26.07.2020.

Restrictions on marriage events and funeral processions:

- ✶ Not more than 50 persons should participate in marriage events.
- ✶ Not more than 50 persons should participate in funeral processions and in connected rituals.

Public Bus Transport:

The permitted private and Government public bus transport service within Districts in the State has been temporarily stopped from 01.07.2020 to 15.07.2020.

e-Pass procedure:

- ✶ Movement within the District without e-Pass, is permitted;
- ✶ e-Pass procedure will continue to be in operation for to and fro travel to other States, to come into Tamil Nadu from other States and for Inter-District travel.
- ✶ In places where total lockdown is extended, the e-Pass issued up to 30.06.2020 will be valid till 05.07.2020. There is no need to get a new e-Pass for this.
- ✶ e-Pass will be issued by District Collectors concerned to contractors desiring to participate in contract bids for Government works from one District to another District, contractors supervising such works and contractors desiring to meet Government officials in respect of these works.

Permission is granted from 06.07.2020 only for the following works in areas (except Containment Zones) under the limits of Greater Chennai Police and in Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu Districts where total lockout is in force:

- ✶ Fifty per cent of the workers, subject to a maximum of 80, are permitted to work in IT and ITeS companies; they should come to office in vans arranged by the company.
- ✶ All private companies, industries and export organizations are permitted to function with 50 per cent workers. However, private companies should encourage their staff to work from their homes;

- ✶ Barring malls, all showrooms and big shops (jewelry, textile and the like) can function with 50 per cent workers. Ensuring that only a maximum of 5 customers enter the shop at a time, they should be permitted in a way as to observe the social distancing norm. Air conditioning facility, if available in the shop, should not be switched on.
- ✶ Taking food in restaurants is permitted but the occupancy of seats should not exceed 50 per cent for observing social distancing norm. A/C facility in eateries should not be used.
- ✶ Tea stalls, canteens and vegetable and grocery shops are permitted to function between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- ✶ Permission is granted only for 50 per cent occupancy of seats in tea stalls.
- ✶ Rental vehicles and taxis can operate only with 3 passengers besides the driver.
- ✶ Only two passengers are allowed in autos besides the driver;
- ✶ Hair-dressing salons and beauty parlours are permitted to function without A/C facility and by following the standard working norms, given by the Government separately.
- ✶ Shops selling fish, poultry meat, meat and egg are permitted to function, subject to adoption of social distancing norm.

II Barring the areas under the limits of Greater Chennai Police, permission is granted for the following activities only, in the rest of Tamil Nadu (except containment zones) from 01.07.2020 and from 06.07.2020 in areas under total lockdown in the Districts of Kancheepuram,Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu and in Madurai Municipal Corporation areas, Paravai Town Panchayat and in all Village Panchayats under the Taluks of Madurai East and West and Thiruparankundram:

i. Darshan for the public will be allowed only in small rural temples having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000, and worship will be allowed only in small mosques, dargahs and churches. These places of worship should follow social distancing and other disease prevention steps without fail. Public darshan will not be allowed at present in all places of worship in Municipal Corporation, Municipality and Town Panchayat areas as also in big places of worship in rural areas.

ii. Industrial units and export organizations are permitted to function with 100 per cent workers;

iii. IT and ITeS companies are permitted to function with cent per cent work force. However, they should encourage 20 per cent of workers to work from home.

iv. All private companies are permitted to work with cent per cent workers. Still, they should encourage staff, to the extent possible, to work from home.

v. Except malls, all showrooms and big shops (like jewelry and textiles) can work with 50 per cent staff. At any point

of time, there can be only a maximum of 5 customers inside the shop and they should be permitted into the shop in such a way as to maintain appropriate physical distancing norm. Even if the shops are air-conditioned, that facility should not be used.

vi. Tea stalls, eateries and vegetable and grocery shops are permitted to function from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Other shops including TASMAC outlets can function from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

vii. Food can be taken in hotels but the occupancy of seats should not exceed 50 per cent for the sake of keeping the social distancing norm. Even if there is A/C facility in hotels, it should not be used;

viii. Fifty per cent occupancy of seats alone are allowed for customers in tea stalls;

ix. E-commerce can cover all articles including non-essential ones.

x. Rental vehicles and taxis can operate with 3 passengers besides the driver.

xi. Autos are permitted to function with 2 passengers. Cycle-rickshaws also are allowed.

xii. Sales outlets for fish, poultry meat and meat are permitted subject to observance of social distancing procedure;

IV. General

✶ Sec. 144 of Cr.P.C. banning assembly of more than 5 persons in public places will continue to be in force.

✶ Total lockout without any relaxation as per the present procedures will be observed in all Containment Cones throughout Tamil Nadu.

✶ Besides encouraging their employees/workers to work from home, all industrial units and commercial companies should strictly follow the standard guidelines in their work places.

✶ As for industries in areas under total lockdown till 05.07.2020, orders have been passed to continue the present practice of permitting workers to work by staying in the factory complex itself or in nearby places and in other places through TN e-Pass method. The areas that will be under total lockdown till 05.07.2020 are the ones within the limits of Greater Chennai Police, some areas in the Districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu, areas under the Madurai Municipal Corporation, Paravai Town Panchayat and all Village Panchayats under the Taluks of Madurai East and West and Thiruparankundram.

To enable employees/workers in industries/ companies in areas other than Chennai and parts of Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Madurai Districts where total lockout is in force, to go to their work place from neighbouring District, the employer can issue permission card to such employees after getting prior sanction from the concerned District Collectors. This permission card is applicable only to the District adjacent to the District where the industry/company is located and not to other Districts.

Special steps taken in Chennai and the surrounding Districts:

Activities have been fast-tracked in Chennai and in the Districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur for the prevention of Corona Virus infections. Particularly, in all the 15 zones of Chennai, special teams headed by IAS officers have been formed, contact tracing taken up at zonal level, monitoring in infection prevention areas intensified and the poor in such areas protected with face mask, vitamin tablets, 'kabasura Kudineer' water and nutritious food. If their residential area is crowded, they are lodged in isolation camps. Details of the infected persons are scrutinized intensively and prevention works are taken up. Apart from these, fever clinics in 149 urban primary health centres and 19 hospitals have been activated, 4,925 fever clinics have been set up and persons with infection symptoms have been identified and tested. This has helped 3,36,836 persons participate and get tested in fever clinics from 19.06.2020; of them 15,119 persons were tested for Corona Virus infection and for 3,189 of them, Corona Virus infection was confirmed and they are getting treated. As this helps in early detection of the virus infection, mortality is averted. Such activities are intensified in the Districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Madurai also.

The poor, the aged, differently abled persons in the hot spots/containment zones as also co-morbid persons (with diseases like blood pressure, heart disease, renal failure and cancer) are likely to be affected more by this disease. The residential areas of the poor in these places are incapable of adopting social distancing norm. So, as an important infection prevention and precautionary measure, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps to launch an intensive survey house-wise in Chennai Municipal Corporation area, particularly in the congested slum areas, identify the likely victims, subject them to tests and make them stay at least for a week in isolation camps and protect them from the Corona Virus infection. In this way, 8.072 persons have been lodged in isolation camps as a precautionary measure. This has prevented infection spread in their residential areas in Greater Chennai Corporation areas.

In Madurai city and some of its surrounding places, fever clinics have been intensively activated, total lockdown has been clamped and 931 camps have been conducted so far; 75,252 persons participated in fever test in those camps and 8,720 persons were subjected to Corona test. As a result, Corona Virus infection has been confirmed for 1,389 persons and they are being treated.

Unless people co-operate, this Corona Virus cannot be prevented from spreading even if the Government enforces lockdown and imposes various restrictions. Wearing face mask has been made compulsory for people while going out in public places. This infection can be controlled only if people extend full co-operation to Government by washing their hands often with soap at home and at work places, wearing face mask, observing social distancing norms and avoiding unnecessary outings. Though the rate of speed at which the infection increases has come down on account of the lockdown and intensive testing, the Government has to extend the lockout for saving the people as the incidence of infections is increasing. This will create opportunities for controlling the spread. Hence, people are requested to co-operate with the Government's efforts. ■

Hon’ble Chief Minister highlights measures to keep State ahead in ‘new normal’ scenario

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at ‘Luminous Tamil Nadu’, the Digital conference held on 06.06.2020 by Confederation of Indian Industries, to transform Tamil Nadu into a premier State in the new normal environment *(English Translation)*

Vanakkam !

Hon’ble Minister for Industries Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Hon’ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru.K.Shanmugam I.A.S., Secretaries of various Departments, Senior Officers, frontline entrepreneurs of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – my pleasant morning greeting to all of you.

The world economy has been greatly affected by the Corona Virus pandemic. Our lifestyle has changed in many ways due to it. An environment of new normalcy has come about with the wearing of face mask, keeping physical distancing and doing office work from home in some sectors.

In the present situation of the world economy recovering gradually, Hon’ble Amma’s Government is taking many steps for continued industrial growth in Tamil Nadu and to maintain its status as the premier State in the industrial sector.

I had announced special subsidies for encouraging production in Tamil Nadu itself, of the required medicines and medical equipment for Corona Virus infection prevention. As a result of this, and due to the excellent efforts of the industrial sector, many industries have started their production now and are distributing their products all over India. This has once again testified to the acumen of Tamil Nadu people who have stood by the country in any emergency and disaster.

In the period of lockdown also, enforced to protect the people of Tamil Nadu from Corona Virus infection spread, the Tamil Nadu Government is making relaxations in a

gradual way in consideration of the people's livelihood and industrial growth. Industries have been permitted to function with 25 per cent employees in the areas under the jurisdiction of Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate and with 100 per cent workers in rest of the areas. I heartily congratulate the industries for fully adopting the safety procedures announced by the Government. At the same time, I fondly request you all to continue these safety measures without any slackening. The Government is carefully watching the changing scenario. I wish to state that the Government will announce more relaxations, depending on the situation that develops.

The recently published 'Elara Securities' survey says that Tamil Nadu is among the five States that are at the forefront in efforts to retrieve the Indian economy. While highly industrialized states like Maharashtra and Gujarat have been pushed back, this survey points out that Tamil Nadu is gradually progressing towards normalcy. This is a fitting certificate for Tamil Nadu Government's visionary actions and for our industrial sector's perseverance.

You are aware of my statement of 31.03.2020 announcing a COVID Relief and Upliftment Scheme (CORUS) to be implemented through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation by allotting Rs.200 crore for distribution of loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) without insisting on collateral security.

Under this scheme, Rs. 120 crore has been disbursed so far to 955 enterprises as working capital.

A State-level Bankers meeting was held on 30.05.2020 for our MSME industries to get the full benefit of the consolidated relief announced by the Central Government. I have advised bankers to simplify the lending procedures for COVID-19 relief and issue loans to industries swiftly.

The impact created by outbreak of Corona infections on the global economic environment has made some industries to decide to shift their units in some countries to other countries including India.

My Government has set up a high-level committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, for attracting these industries to Tamil Nadu. Another high-level committee under the Chairmanship of Dr.C. Rangarajan has also been set up with economic experts, industrial entrepreneurs and Government Officers as members, for recommending steps to retrieve the economy. As a result of these excellent efforts, Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with 17 industrial establishments belonging to Germany, Finland, Taiwan, France, Korea, Japan, China, the USA, Australia, England and the Netherlands were signed on behalf of the Industries Department for starting their new and expansion units.

Through these schemes, about 47,150 persons will get job opportunities at an investment of Rs.15,128 crore. This event has turned the world's gaze towards Tamil Nadu.

Besides, I have also written letters in my personal capacity to the Heads of globally reputed industrial establishments for investing in Tamil Nadu. Establishments like Apple, Samsung, Amazon, Airbus, Rolls Royce, Boeing and General Electric are among them.

In these trying times, I have advised all officers to pay attention to four important heads

under Government's plan of action for the industrial sector.

- ✶ Helping industries in Tamil Nadu quickly regain normalcy.
- ✶ Attracting new investments.
- ✶ Further simplifying Government's clearances and procedures.
- ✶ Simplifying lending processes for greater circulation of money needed for industries.

By engaging in such activities with focus, we can make the newly started and existing industries in Tamil Nadu function better and also successfully face the challenges posed by the Corona outbreak.

On account of Corona Virus infections spreading, many Migrant Workers have returned to their native States. However, to ensure that production does not suffer because of this unexpected situation, I request the industrial sector to try to use the workers of Tamil Nadu to regain normalcy. For this, I wish to state in this august gathering, that the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation is ready to join hands with CII to give training to workers. At a time when many reforms have already been undertaken for ease of doing business, reforms will be brought about at the District-level also and the procedures for getting approval from the Departments of Labour, Medicine and local bodies organizations will be simplified. There is no doubt that this will further strengthen a conducive ambience for industrial investment.

In these trying times, I fondly request you all to protect your health, that of your employees and job security as well. I assure you that Hon'ble Amma's Government will ever be a safe fortress to the people of Tamil Nadu and the industrial sector. ■

News in Picture

In connection with the 118th birth anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru.P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and Director of Information and Public Relations Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., paid floral tributes to the portrait kept near his statue at Marina on 15.07.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister announces measures to bring Corona under control in Chennai

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 15.06.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is protecting the people from the Corona Virus, besides providing them various relief measures. Due to this, the percentage of people who have been cured of the virus in the State is the maximum in the country and the loss of lives due to the virus is less.

Following the Central Government's decision to implement Lockdown from 25.03.2020 under the National Disaster Management Act, the Tamil Nadu Government also introduced the Lockdown in the State. Considering the spread of the Corona Virus and the livelihood of the people, the Government extended the Lockdown up to 30.06.2020 with some relaxation.

Steps for the prevention of the disease have been geared up in Greater Chennai Corporation, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur Districts. Specially in Chennai, to integrate the anti-virus activities in 15 Zones, Hon'ble Ministers and IAS officers have been involved. Under their supervision, zonal level contact tracing of those who have been afflicted with the disease, has been effected. In these areas, infection prevention measures have been strengthened by giving masks, vitamin tablets and 'Kabasura Kudineer' to poor people. Prevention activities are being undertaken after getting the details about those who are greatly affected by the disease. Apart from this, in all the 140 Urban Primary Health Centres and 19 hospitals, over 300 fever clinics have been functioning and door-to-door checking of virus has been undertaken. Only due to this, the virus spread has been detected early, proper treatment been given and mortality reduced thereby. Similar activities have been undertaken in Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu Districts.

Apart from all these measures, taking into consideration the spread of the disease in Chennai and neighbouring Districts and based on consultation held with medical personnel and Public Health officials on 15.06.2020 and on the decision on Cabinet Meeting,

Lockdown has been extended under the Disaster Management Act 2005 for 12 days from early morning 00 hours of 19.06.2020 to midnight 12 on 30.06.2020 in the following areas.

In areas under the Greater Chennai Police Limits in Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur Municipality, Gummudipoondi, Ponneri and Minjur Town Panchayats and in all Panchayats in Poonamallee, Ekkadu and Cholavaram Panchayat Unions.

In Chengalpattu District, areas under the Greater Chennai Police Limits, Chengalpattu and Maraimalar Nagar Municipalities, Nandivaram-Guduvancheri Town Panchayats and all Panchayats under the Kattankulathur Panchayat Union.

In Kancheepuram District, Lockdown will be implemented only in areas under the Greater Chennai Police Limits.

However, the following relaxations have been given despite the Lockdown:

1. Medical-related services such as Hospitals, Medical Laboratories, Pharmacies, Ambulances and Mortuary vans;
2. Hire auto, Taxi and private taxi use is not allowed. However, these transport facilities can be utilized for medical emergency;
3. State Government offices will function with 33 per cent employees. Secretariat, Police Department, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Electricity Department, Treasury Department, Aavin, Local Bodies and Drinking Water Supply Department, Labour Welfare Department, Co-operative, Food and Consumer Protection Department will function with required number of employees.
4. Central Government offices will be allowed to function with not more than 33 per cent employees; Central Government Offices, which undertake essential services will be permitted with required employees;
5. Employees living in containment zones need not attend office. But, they should get the necessary permission from the officers of the Departments concerned.
6. Banks with 33 per cent staff will be allowed to function only on 29.06.2020 and 30.06.2020. ATM and related services and transport will function as usual;
7. Public Distribution shops will function from 8 am. to 2 pm. Transporting by Food Corporation of India and

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation godowns connected with PDS will be allowed;

8. Ration shops in Containment Zones will not function. However, relief measures will be distributed by ration shop employees at the doorstep of families living in containment zones;

9. Vegetable Shops, grocery Shops and petrol bunks will be permitted to function between 6 am. and 2 pm. with permitted rules and regulations and social distancing. Similarly, mobile vegetable and fruit shops are allowed to do business between 6 am. and 2 pm. Members of the public who purchase necessary articles are advised to purchase them from nearby shops of 2 km. range and avoid using vehicles.

10. Eateries are allowed to function between 6 am. and 8 pm. but, can run parcel services only. Telephone orders for door supply of food are permitted. Employees who deliver those food items are permitted with the identity cards of their concerns.

11. Elders, physically disabled persons, Destitute Homes, helpers to the sick and old people in the houses will be permitted.

12. Amma Unavagam and Community kitchens run by the Government and local bodies will continue to function;

13. Service organizations and other units which serve the public can function with the permission of the Officer of the Departments concerned;

14. Print and electronic media.

15. Legal Department and courts.

16. Construction work will be permitted with the workers staying in work spots for the above 12 days;

17. In areas within the Greater Chennai Police limits, workers should be tested for RT-PCR once, before they are allowed to stay within the industry complex or in nearby areas for 12 days and permitted to work; Similarly the workers who are within the Greater Chennai Police limits but, work in other areas should undergo RT-PCR test at the factory complex and permitted to work by staying within the complex. The workers who are within the Greater Chennai Police limits are not allowed to go to the work spot outside the Police limit daily. However, the Continuous Process Industries and industries manufacturing essential commodities are permitted to function with necessary protection.

18. There is no ban on the movement of freight and vehicles carrying essential articles during the Lockdown period.

19. People from Chennai, who want to attend marriage functions, deaths and undergo medical examinations in other Districts outside Chennai will be given e-Pass on production of necessary documents.

20. The existing current procedure will continue for trains and planes coming from other States and for international planes and ships.

Complete Lockdown will be maintained on Sundays that fall on 21.06.2020 and 28.06.2020 and there will be no relaxation on these two days. This means from midnight 12 on 20.08.2020 to 6 am. on 22.06.2020 and similarly from midnight 12 on 27.06.2020 to 6 am. on 29.06.2020, there will be full lockdown without any relaxation. On these two days, except Milk distribution, hospitals, medical vans, emergency and mortuary vans, no other activities are allowed. Private vehicles are allowed only for emergency medical services.

In the Containment zones, no activity is allowed during the Lockdown and it will be implemented more strictly and monitored. Availability of essential articles for the houses in the Containment Zones and quarantined Houses will be ensured by the local bodies. In these areas, disinfectants will be sprayed twice a day.

During the Lockdown period, the services of 104 (Control Room) and 108 (Ambulance Service) will be strengthened and monitored.

Distribution of essential articles and medical service during emergency period will be co-ordinated through the Special Control rooms.

Taking into consideration the livelihood of people, Hon'ble Amma Government's announced a relief of Rs. 1,000 to the following:

Greater Chennai Corporation;

In areas under the Greater Chennai Police limits in Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur Municipality, Gummudipoondi, Ponneri and Minjur Town Panchayats and in all Panchayats in Poonamallee, Ekkadu and Cholavaram Panchayat Unions.

In Chengalpattu District, areas under the Greater Chennai Police limit, Chengalpattu and Maraimalar Nagar Municipalities, Nandivaram-Guduvancheri Town Panchayats and all Panchayats under the Kattankulathur Panchayat Union.

In Kancheepuram District, all rice ration cardholders within the areas under the Greater Chennai Police limit.

Similarly all members of the unorganized workers Welfare Boards and in other welfare boards of various Departments.

Even if Lockdown is implemented and various controls are enforced, it will be difficult to control the Corona Virus without the co-operation of the public. Wearing masks has been made compulsory for people going out and in public places. People should frequently wash their hands in their houses and in their work places. Wearing masks and maintaining social distance should be followed compulsorily. Only if people avoid going out of their houses unnecessarily and co-operate with the Government the Virus spread can be controlled. If people have any symptoms of Corona Virus infection, they should immediately contact the nearest hospitals or clinics and get proper medical treatment or advice.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister appeals to people to fully co-operate with the Government's efforts.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens ultra modern Corona hospital in King Institute complex

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open on 07.07.2020, a 750-bed Government Corona Hospital for Covid-19 patients with ultra modern special medical equipment in the premises of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy, Chennai.

The hospital is the new avatar of the National Centre for Ageing that was set up in the King Institute complex at a cost of Rs.136.86 crore. Due to the prevailing Corona Virus epidemic, the Tamil Nadu Government has converted this into Covid-19 health or care centre on a war-footing in just two weeks.

This hospital for Covid-19 patients has been set up as an ultra modern hospital, on par with private hospitals, with four floors and with other facilities that include 300 beds with oxygen supply facility, 60 bed ICU ward and 40 numbers of special rooms. Reception room, ultra modern treatment ward, pharmacy and blood bank are located in the semi-basement; the ground floor has testing facilities such as CT scan, ultra Sonogram, Echo, X-ray, Ventilator, High Flow Nasal Cannula and similar testing facilities; the first and second floors have modern operation theatres with all medical infrastructure and ICU wards; the third floor has a special hall for patients to do yoga exercise to relieve stress, facility for Covid-19 patients to get clarifications from doctors on treatment through video conferencing and ultra modern Wi-Fi facility to converse with relatives and many other facilities. For the safety of doctors treating the Corona Virus infections, nurses and non-medical workers and to prevent the virus from spreading, the hospital has ultra modern

equipment as in AIIMS and JIPMER hospitals. The hospital has 100 doctors, 90 nurses and 100 non-medical workers.

An expert committee with experienced doctors has been set up to provide excellent treatment for Corona Virus infections in this hospital. Medical experts from the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Government Stanley Hospital and Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital have been inducted into the Expert Committee on deputation. Members of the committee have the expertise to treat patients as per the procedures and the nature of Corona Virus infection in each individual. To monitor the adherence to treatment procedures, senior doctors with administrative efficiency from the above mentioned three hospitals have been appointed on deputation. These senior doctors will act as guides to the experts committee to work in an effective way from the commencement of treatment to its finish. ■

NEWS IN PICTURE

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** laid the foundation stone for the Salem-Attur Combined Water Supply Scheme renovation works to be executed at an estimate of Rs.19.17 crore, at a function held at Mettupatti in Salem District on 28.06.2020. Members of the Parliament and Members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Salem District Collector Thiru. S.A.Raman I.A.S.,President of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank Thiru. R. Elangovan and high Government officials participated.

Aavin comes up with 5 delicious new products including herbal buttermilk to boost immunity

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami launched five new milk products of Aavin at the Secretariat on 07.07.2020. They are immunity boosting butter milk, choco and mango lassies, long shelf-life milk and tea-mate milk. The Aavin establishment, whose only aim is quality, is at the forefront in marketing milk at fair prices in Tamil Nadu for the last four decades. It is also selling high quality milk products like butter, ghee, khova and ice cream through its milk parlours and retail franchises. Besides, it has been launching new by-products of milk now and then to meet consumers' needs.

In this way, Hon'ble Chief Minister introduced the following five products on 07.07.2020, on behalf of Aavin establishment:

Immunity boosting Aavin Buttermilk - Aavin Buttermilk and Curd are highly popular among people. In these Corona Virus infection days, a new type of buttermilk, prepared by adding immunity boosting ingredients like ginger, lemon, tulsi, pepper, cumin seeds, asafoetida, curry leaves, green coriander and salt is being launched for the use of people. This herbal buttermilk will promote health and boost immunity. It will be marketed at Rs.15

for a bottle of 200 ml. to cater to all sections of people.

Choco lassi and mango lassi - Currently, Aavin establishment is marketing two types of lassis – ordinary and pro-biotic. Now, it is launching two flavoured lassis – chocolate and mango at Rs.23 per bottle of 200 ml. The new products will be very tasty as to attract children and the youth.

Ultra High Temperature processed Milk (UTH milk) - To fulfill the needs of office goers, particularly women, the UTH milk in flexi packs is being introduced. These packets need not be kept in refrigerators. Their shelf-life is 90 days at room temperature. The fat and protein content of this milk, is 4.5% and 8.5% respectively. A packet of 500 ml. costs Rs.30.

Tea Mate milk - To meet the needs of eateries, tea stalls, hostels and chefs, this highly fat content tea mate milk is being introduced. This milk contains 6.5% fat and 9% protein. A 1 litre milk packet will cost Rs.60. This milk will be useful for preparing tea and coffee in tea stalls and eateries on a large scale.

July 17 : 'Thiyagigal Dhinam'

Jaihind Shenbagaraman, international fighter for India's Independence

Shenbagaraman, popularly known as Jaihind Shenbagaraman, was an Indian-born political activist and a revolutionary leader. Though he was born in India in September 1891, he spent most of his life in Germany.

Thyagi Shenbagaraman is one among those, who with the assistance of Germany fought against Britishers for the country's independence. With the sole aim of making India independent, he worked with Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. He was named as the Foreign Minister in the Provisional Government set up in Kabul in 1915.However, the defeat of Germans shattered the hopes of Indian revolutionaries and Britishers forced them out of Kabul. Even after the end of the World War, Shenbagaraman worked for the Independence of India. For this he mobilized the support of expatriates in other countries. At the international level he worked for the trade relations of the country and succeeded in it.

He argued with dictator Hitler and made him apologize for his comments against Indians. From that day onwards, he realized the looming threat to his life. As he feared that his house in Germany would be destroyed by Nazi forces and the documents about India kept there would be seized by them, he handed them over to his close friends in Berlin.

Special loans totalling Rs. 3,644.15 lakh distributed to 7,038 women of SHGs

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at Edappadi in Salem District, handed over loans to 9 beneficiaries as a token of distribution of special loans to the tune of Rs. 3,644.15 lakh to 7,038 women belonging to Women's Self Help Groups, for their economic development.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, at the Tourist Bungalow in Edappadi, on behalf of the Salem District Central Co-operative Bank, distributed crop loans to 904 persons, medium-term loan to 191 persons, Self Help Group loan to 53 groups, comprising 765 members and Covid-19 Loan to 62 Self Help Groups consisting of 1,240 persons, totally Rs.1,074.22 lakh to 3,100 beneficiaries.

Under the Rural Development (Women Scheme) Covid-19 Loan to 466 Self Help Groups as Special bank assistance, to 295 Self Help Groups as bank loan, to 184 Self Help Groups for social investment fund and to 284 Self Help Groups as basic capital and individual loans to 245 beneficiaries, totally loans to 1,474 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs.2,107.93 lakh.

On behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (Rejuvenation Scheme) Corona Special Assistance Package to 154 federations at Panchayat level, at the rate of Rs.2 lakh to each federation, Corona Special loan to 154 Poverty Eradication committees at the rate of Rs.1 lakh to each committee, totally Rs.462 lakhs to 2,464 beneficiaries were distributed.

Tamil Nadu's matchless record of ensuring people's food security

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many intensive Corona Virus prevention works and relief works on a war-footing to halt Corona Virus infections. From 24.03.2020, lockdown under the State Disaster Management Act is in force in Tamil Nadu with many relaxations now and then as demanded by the prevailing situation.

To provide relief to the people considering that lockdown will affect their livelihood, Hon'ble Amma's Government announced a Rs.3,280 crore Special Relief Scheme. Accordingly, with a cash assistance of Rs.1,000 rice, sugar, dhal and cooking oil were distributed to all rice card holders even in the month of April.

As the lockdown continued, an order was issued to distribute to every family card holder a kg of dhal, a litre of cooking oil and eligible quantum of rice and sugar at no cost for the months of May and June also as had been done in the month of April.

In this situation, the Central Government ordered distribution of 5 more kg of rice per head for all family card holders at no cost for the three months of April, May and June. Accordingly, additional quantum of rice was also distributed for these 3 months as per the number of persons in the family.

Taking into account the extension of the lockdown up to July 31, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami has ordered the distribution to family card holders, of all essential commodities in fair price shops – one kg of sugar, one kg of toor dhal, one litre of cooking oil and rice, both normal and additional quantum as issued in the months of April, May and June and for the month of July also at no cost.

In the whole of India, Tamil Nadu is the only State that has ensured food security by continuously giving rice, sugar, dhal and cooking oil to all family card holders for the 3 months of April, May and June and extending it to the month of July also.

To protect people from Virus attack while they access essential commodities, tokens for family card holders will be distributed at their houses itself from 06.07.2020 to 09.07.2020. The date and time of distribution of essentials will be marked on the token. Card holders can collect the essential commodities from their respective fair price shops from 10.07.2020 onwards, on the date and time mentioned in the token. In the containment zones, the essential commodities will be delivered at the cardholder's residence itself.

People are requested to wear face mask and observe the social distancing norm while getting their essential commodities at no cost.

Sesame –the way to good health!

Sesame is one of the plants grown in plenty in tropical countries. Sesame seeds have many nutrients. Using sesame seeds, many food varieties are prepared and eaten. The oil extracted from the sesame seed is called gingelly oil.

Gingelly oil is a daily ingredient in dishes made all over the world. Let us see the benefits people derive medically through this oil and by consuming the food prepared with it.

Gingelly oil's uses: An armour for the skin

Our outer skin is a protective armour for our body. Gingelly oil is the most beneficial oil for the outer skin. Gingelly oil is rich in zinc nutrient. This makes the skin soft by extending its elasticity. It removes wrinkles brought about by old age and scars. Gingelly oil, smeared a little on the hands in summer months, protects the skin from sun burns. It also protects from skin diseases caused by sweat and infectious germs.

Gingelly oil is an excellent food ingredient to restore the health of the heart and prevent damage to it. Food prepared with gingelly oil, consumed often, prevents bad cholesterol from depositing in the heart and in the tissues and nerves connected with the heart.

Full of nutrition

Our body and mind will function briskly only when blood circulation is steady and in the appropriate proportion. Copper and zinc nutrients are aplenty in gingelly oil. Copper is very helpful in the production of blood cells. Copper nutrient keeps blood circulation steady and this helps oxygen reach all parts of the body through the blood. This makes the body and mind act briskly.

Gingelly oil is very beneficial in preventing all types of cancer. It is rich in the chemical compound 'polate'. It is also rich in magnesium. These two nutrients render great help in preventing occurrence of cancers in the liver and intestine.

Gingelly oil has much Calcium too. This prevents cancer in the stomach and connected organs. When our body lacks some essential nutrients, pain and swelling occurs in bone joints. To prevent these ailments, it is necessary that our diet has copper nutrients. Gingelly oil supplies this mineral.

Strengthens bones and tissues

Bones and supporting tissues are strengthened by the gingelly oil nutrients that mix with the blood when food prepared in the

oil are taken. It is a common experience that persons suffering from arthritis feel.

Strengthening the teeth

Many would have heard about the medical procedure - oil pulling – for strengthening teeth. But this process has been followed in our country for several centuries. Gingelly oil is good for this 'oil pulling' procedure.

Before brushing the teeth in the morning, a table spoon of gingelly oil should be gargled for 20 minutes every day. This daily practice prevents cavity in teeth, swelling and oozing of blood in the gums and other deficiencies like these. The teeth will become strong; yellow stains will fade and the teeth will begin to glitter.

Gingelly oil brings down stress

A healthy mind will remove anxiety and mental tension and ensure a healthy body. Some suffer from excessive anxiety and tension. The amino acid 'tyrosine' in gingelly oil is full of chemicals. Medical research has shown that this 'tyrosine' makes the chemical 'serotonin' secrete in the brain to increase the secretion of good enzymes and hormones for removing tension and anxiety and create mental peace and a joyous mood. Though calcium is necessary for bone growth and sturdiness, copper and zinc nutrients are also needed for bones.

Calcium, copper and zinc nutrients are in equal proportion in gingelly oil. Food prepared in gingelly oil should be consumed more for bone strength and growth. This is particularly so for children.

Benefits of Oil bath

Gingelly oil, as a natural food and oil is very good for children. A massage with gingelly oil for a little while ensures deep sleep in children and the best physical growth. Moisture in children's clothes causes boils and rashes. Application of gingelly oil removes itching sensation and scars.

Let us make use of gingelly oil and stay healthy.

July 17 : 'Thiyagigal Dhinam'

Arya (alias) Bhashiyam, fearless freedom fighter

K.Bhashiyam (Arya), a great freedom fighter, was born in 1907 in Mannargudi Taluk, Thanjavur District. He actively participated in the freedom movement. He was a portrait painter and sculptor and painted poet Mahakavi Bharati on canvas in the year 1950. His statues of Gandhi and Satyamurthi and portraits of Gandhiji and Bharati are among his outstanding works.

On the morning of January 26, 1932 Arya (alias) Bhashiyam climbed the 148 feet of the flag-staff at Fort St. George, tore down the Union Jack and hoisted the Indian tricolour. He was arrested but refused to express regret for what he had done and was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. After Independence, Bhashiyam refused the pension awarded to him as a freedom fighter. He passed away in 1999 at the age of 93.

No need for e-Pass for travelling within District, Pass a must when travelling to other Districts

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 24.06.2020 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami reviewed on 24.06.2020, the progress of continued anti-Corona Virus measures undertaken by various Departments in the State, relief measures for the people and the supply of essential commodities to people without any interruption, with the District Collectors through video conferencing.

At the meeting, the District Collectors pointed out that at present vehicle movement is based on zonal system. Vehicles are allowed without e-Pass within the zone comprising various Districts. If, Corona Virus is found among people who come from other Districts of the same zone without e-Pass, it is difficult to trace those who are in touch with them. It is also difficult to curb the movement of such people. The District Collectors suggested instead, movement without e-Pass within the District and scrapping the zonal level movement without e-Pass. This suggestion was accepted and will come into force from 25.06.2020 to 30.06.2020. Now, e-Pass is not necessary for movement within the District but, compulsory when moving from one District to other Districts.

The public are requested to co-operate with the Government to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Kallakurichi Government Medical College Buildings

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 04.07.2020, laid the foundation stone for the Kallakurichi Government Medical College buildings, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.381.76 crore at Siruvangur Village in Kallakurichi Block in Kallakurichi District through video conferencing. In addition the Hon'ble Chief Minister, on behalf of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, declared open the buildings for Primary Health Centres, built at a cost of Rs.7.72 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been starting Government Medical Colleges in the Districts where there is no medical college. In this connection in the academic year 2017-2018, a new Government Medical College at Pudukkottai, with an intake of 150 students and in the academic year 2019-2020, the Karur Government Medical College, with an intake of 150 students were declared open. The IRT Medical College at Perundurai in Erode District was converted into Government Medical College and is now functioning under the Health and Family Welfare Department. With the financial assistance of the Central Government, in the year 2019, permission was granted by the Centre to start 11 new medical colleges, one each in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, the Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiriri, Thiruvallur, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi Districts, which is a record achievement.

Already foundation stones have been laid for new Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri and Thiruvallur Districts by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The new Medical College at Siruvangur Village in Kallakurichi Block in Kallakurichi District will come up on an 8.328 hectare area. Administrative sanction for Rs. 381.76 crore

has been given for the new medical college. Of this, the Central Government will give its 60 per cent share (Rs. 195 crore) and the State its share of 40 per cent (Rs. 186.76 crore). In the first phase, the Tamil Nadu Government released Rs.110 crore and the Centre Rs.50 crore. College buildings for Rs.132.50 crore, Medical Hospital buildings for Rs.182.79 crore and housing, hostel buildings for Rs.66.47 crore will be constructed. The Kallakurichi Medical College will start with 150 MBBS seats.

In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, on behalf of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, declared open an Upgraded Primary Health Centre at Nettur in Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore;

Buildings for Primary Health Centres at Kallankurichi in Ariyalur District, Belarahalli in Dharmapuri District, Thiruppachethi in Sivaganga District, Kasangadu and Kathiramangalam in Thanjavur District, P.Dharmathupatti in Theni District, Melathevanallur in Tirunelveli District and Velliraveli in Tiruppur District , totally at a cost of Rs. 4.72 crore;

An out-patient block at the Upgraded PHC at Ammapalayam in Perambalur District at a cost of Rs. 60 lakh; an out-patient block at the Upgraded PHC at Pandanallur in Thanjavur District, at a cost of Rs.60 lakh and buildings costing Rs. 60 lakh at the Urban Primary Health Centre at Perambalur in Perambalur District.

Totally, buildings for Primary Health Centres, constructed at a cost of Rs. 7.72 crore were declared open.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 16.06.2020, on behalf of the Finance Department, declared open through video conferencing buildings for 4 Sub-Treasury Offices, one each at Annur in Coimbatore District, Alathur in Perambalur District, Kalasapakkam in Tiruvannamalai District and Kanniyakumari in Kanniyakumari District and 2 additional floors in the Integrated Office Complex of Finance Department within the Amma Complex at Nandanam in Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's water management scheme works wonders for delta farmers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, with the aim of making Tamil Nadu a Water Surplus State, has been focussing on water management since 2016 by implementing various Schemes, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for the benefit of farmers.

With people's participation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been implementing a special water management programme in the State known as 'Kudimaramathu' Scheme. To protect the water bodies in the Delta Districts, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered desilting and repairing of water bodies before the onset of the South West Monsoon and the North East Monsoon. While in the Delta Districts of Erode, Karur, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Pudukkottai, desilting and repairing of the water bodies have been going on a massive scale, in the remaining Districts too, 'kudimaramathu' works have been going on in a speedy manner.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, to store rain water without wasting a drop of water, eris, tanks, ponds, long canals and reservoirs up to a length of 2,629.85 km have been renovated, de-silted and repaired last year.

In desilting and renovation operations, 635 machines were used and 281 works were completed at a cost of Rs. 60.95 crore. These works have enabled water to reach tail-end areas swiftly. This move has been welcomed by the Delta farmers. Due to these works, crop coverage and food production have exceeded the target.

Following the success of the programme during last year, this year also the Hon'ble Chief Minister allotted Rs. 6,724.75 lakh for implementing special desilting and renovation of water bodies in the Delta Districts.

For Karur District, Rs. 138 lakh has been allotted to carry out 11 works of desilting and renovation for a length of 42.65 km, for Tiruchi District, Rs. 176.80 lakh for 20 desilting works

to a length of 54.53 km, for Ariyalur District Rs.16 lakh for 1 desilting work to a length of 4 km, for Thanjavur District, Rs. 2291.90 lakh for 165 desilting work to a length of 944.97 km, for Tiruvarur District, Rs.2,256.55 lakh for 106 desilting works for a length of 1244.06 km, for Nagapattinam District, Rs. 1,671.50 lakh for 80 desilting works for a length of 1072.71 km and for Pudukkottai District Rs.174 lakh for 9 desilting works for a length of 94.23 km; totally Rs. 6,724.75 lakh has been sanctioned for undertaking 392 desilting works to a length of 3457.15 km in the Delta Districts and the works are going on speedily.

Taking into consideration the demands of the farmers of the Cuddalore District, the Hon'ble Chief Minister sanctioned Rs.200 lakh for undertaking 21 desilting works to a length of 199.85 km. These works will begin in a day or two and instructions have been issued to complete the work within 10 days.

Nannilam Mudikondan river and Thethiyur Tirumalairajan river in Tiruvarur District

In Nannilam Mudikondan river and Thethiyur Tirumalairajan river in Tiruvarur District, desilting works are on in earnest. For supervising and reviewing the special desilting operations and completing them at the earliest, senior IAS officers have been appointed for each of the 7 Districts. In addition, all the 7 District Collectors, 173 engineers, including the Chief Engineer of the Water Resources Department, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineer and 809 machines are engaged in field works.

To complete the works on Mudikondan River in Reddipalayam in Kumbakonam division, daily targets are fixed and works are carried out as per the target. Through modern apps, from the Secretariat to the point of work, communication has been maintained without any interruption and due to this monitoring, works are carried out in a transparent manner.

Mudikondan River in Reddipalayam in Kumbakonam Division Before Work

After Work

Sembiyavarambal Canal, Kumbakonam Taluk Before Work

After Work

Since supervision and reviewing of works are carried out at various points, the quality of the desilting and renovation works are good and are going on as per schedule. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the completion of these works before the opening of the Mettur Reservoir for Delta irrigation. So, all the desilting operations are going on a war footing.

As these works are carried out in a transparent manner due to modern techniques, proper planning and direct participation of people, they are not only 100 per cent successful but make the Tamil Nadu a model State in water management. It is really a record to renovate the basic infrastructure of a long river within a short time. Farmers are happy with these works and are thanking the Government.

Thiru. M.Ganesan, Ayacutdar of Vairavan Koil Canal, Thanjvaur District:

"There was no water flow in the Vairavan Koil Canal for the last 8 years as the canal had not been desilted. We suffered a lot as there was no work for us. About 500 acres had been getting irrigation through this canal. Now, thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's 'Kudimaramathu' Scheme, the canal has been desilted. We are ready to begin the kuruvai cultivation as we are confident that the water will reach tail-end areas once the Mettur Reservoir is opened for delta irrigation".

Thiru.M.Panneerselvam, President of the Kalyan Odai Ayacutdars Association, Thanjavur District:

"For the past many years, we have not seen or utilized Cauvery river water. Now the Odai has been desilted to facilitate irrigation facility for 670 acres. We are ready for kuruvai cultivation. We are thankful to Hon'ble Chief Minister for ensuring our livelihood".

Thiru. Azhagar, Old Palli Tank Ayacutdar (Vadakkal):

“Last year Vikrama Canal was desilted and due to this, water reached the tail-end areas benefiting farmers. Similarly this year, Old Palli Tank canal has been de-silted. About 800 acres will get irrigation facility. Farmers in this area are immensely happy as we will be benefited more. We are thankful to the Farmers’ Chief Minister for showing us the way to continue our livelihood”.

Last year, about 2.90 lakh acres were brought under kuruvai cultivation. This year, about 3.5 lakh acres are likely to be covered by kuruvai crops. Due to increased coverage, it has been planned to produce about 1 lakh tonnes more rice in the current kuruvai. Previously, water took nearly 25 days to reach the tail-end areas. Now due to desilting, water reaches the tail-end areas within 10 days. Farmers are eagerly waiting the opening of the Mettur Reservoir to begin their kuruvai cultivation. ■

News in Pictures

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** met the family members of P.Mathiazhagan of Vethilaikarankadu in Edappadi Taluk on 12.06.2020 and expressed his condolences over the soldier’s death when he was protecting the borders of the Indian nation against enemy aggression. The Hon’ble Chief Minister also issued an order to the District Collector to ensure a job for the soldier’s wife, Tmt. Tamilarasi.

New portal, app for TNPFCL

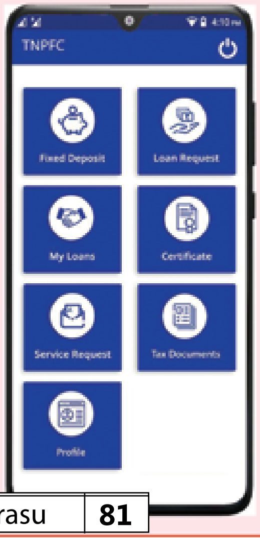
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 07.07.2020, inaugurated a new portal – www.tnpowerfinance.com -- developed by the Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and a mobile application -- TNPFCL.

A public sector organization wholly owned by the Tami Nadu Government, TNPFCL was started as a non-banking financial institution (Deposits) in 1991 by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Corporation finances infrastructure projects of the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation. It also collects deposits from the public and public sector organizations and gives higher interest to depositors than the public sector banks.

In order to inform depositors about the activities of the Corporation through the internet, TNPFCL has developed the portal www.tnpowerfinance.com and a mobile application, TNPFCL . The new portal and app were inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami. Through this portal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave away Rs. 30 crore for 8,000 beneficiaries under the Girl Child Protection Scheme.

The new portal and app will help depositors open new deposit accounts, renew their deposits, close matured deposits, secure loans against deposits, and change nominees and bank details in TNPFCL's records.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Thiru.P.Thangamani, handed over a cheque for Rs.5 crore for the Chief Minister's Public Relief fund for anti-Corona and relief activities.



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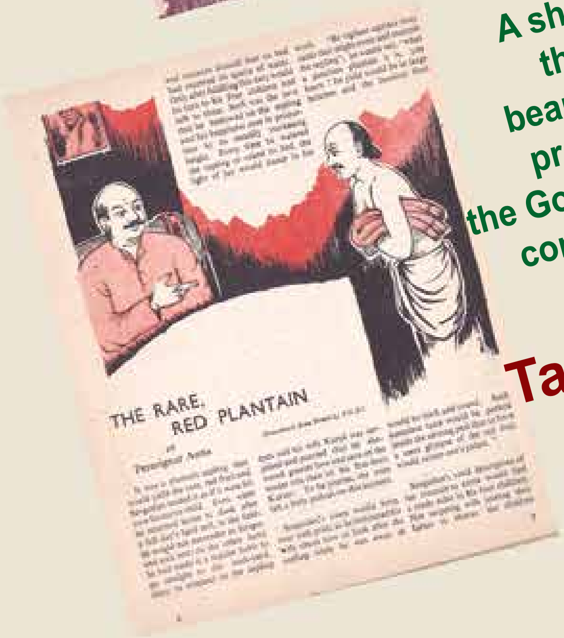
A shield that beautifully projects the Government's constructive works

Tamilarasu



An engraving that emblazons Tamil Nadu Government's Achievements!

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